



The Shepherd's Staff

*Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States*

August 2021

The Right Reverend Donald M. Ashman

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Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary

SEMINARY FALL SESSION

On July thirtieth, we finished a wonderful Summer Session (thirty students, auditors, and faculty) and, starting on August thirty-first, five classes will be offered by Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary on the Zoom Platform – and all available for credit or audit, for laity, postulants, and clergy.

Bishop Blair Schultz will teach an expanded year-long class in ***An Analysis of the Book of Common Prayer***. This is an excellent refresher course for all clergy, even for senior clergy. The Prayer Book Class will be taught on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Central Time, (5:00 p.m. Pacific, 6 Mtn, 8, Eastern) starting on Tuesday September 21st.

Archbishop John Upham will teach ***Ecclesiology*** in the Fall and ***Ecclesiastical Polity*** in the Spring (2022) which will be taught on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain, 4 p.m. Pacific) beginning on Wednesday September 1st. (No class on September 15th)

Bishop Ashman will teach three classes.

- ***Ecclesiastical Latin*** will be taught at 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time (10:30 Mountain; 11:30 Central; 12:30 Eastern) beginning on Friday September 3rd. (No class on September 17th) Text, *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin* by John F. Collins (available from Amazon)
- ***Third Year Greek*** will be offered Fridays at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time (12:00 p.m. Mountain; 1:00 p.m. Central; and 2:00 p.m. Eastern) beginning on Friday September 3rd. (No class on September 17th)
- ***World History and Religion*** will be offered on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time (12 Mtn; 1 Central; 2 Eastern) and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, beginning on Tuesday August 31st. (No class on September 14th) No textbook need be purchased.

The cost per course is \$250.00 for credit and \$75.00 for audit. Please address any requests for tuition relief to the Provost at bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.

When you sign up for your course(s), please send your Registration (below) to the following:

(1) The Provost (Bishop Ashman): bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.

(2) The Vice Provost and Registrar (Canon Ben Jones): fr.benjones@gmail.com

Send your check to St. George's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, 1210 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

The Archbishop and Provost would like to personally remind all clergy that “continuing education” is of supreme importance. We too easily forget what we have learned. We are not independent contractors who run our own shows. Rather, as disciplined lifelong learners, we all need to learn what (perhaps) we did not learn. We always need to sharpen our skills, especially our theological and pastoral skills.

***More textbook information will be available soon. Don't hesitate to email any questions.

When you sign up, be sure to include your name, address, email address; your parish, your sponsoring or parish priest, and the courses you have completed online or in person at Saint Joseph's Seminary and the dates completed. If you are intending to pursue Holy Orders, please complete the application for postulancy found on the APCK Website: www.anglicanpck.org – and send it to your Diocesan Bishop

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Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Theological Seminary
FALL SEMESTER 2021 REGISTRATION
(HARD COPY OR EMAIL)

Name:

Address:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Parish:

If taken for Credit or you are a Postulant, Continue

Sponsoring Priest or Bishop:

Parish Priest:

List of the Seminary Courses you have completed at Saint Joseph's and the Dates:

A Sermon for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

I want to cry – I mean it, **cry** – when I think about how we humans try to tell God his business by letting our wishes and wants dominate the way we treat each other. We are told today to beware of false prophets who come to us dressed in sheep’s clothing but inwardly [they] are ravening wolves. I think our first thought is outward and we judge the clergy. And many times we are right. But I think we must also look at ourselves – down deep into our hearts – and ask ourselves if we are false prophets. Now a prophet, after all, is a forth-teller and proclaims to people what they need to hear about God and his love. Saint Francis of Assisi said, *“Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words.”*

Henri Nouwen, in his book *In the Name of Jesus*, reminds us that there are three cardinal temptations that befall all of us: the temptation to be relevant; the temptation to be spectacular; and the temptation to be powerful. My point is that false prophets preach a false gospel when they – that means myself as well – act out these temptations. I want to cry and wail when I come to the realization that I have not given a friend or parishioner 100% of my attention (*“Father, you’re not listening.”*) or when I want to be needed (It’s like a narcotic) or even when I dream of what I could be instead of what I should be.

At one of our Summer Sessions a few years ago, Father Russell said words to the effect that it is no longer good enough to say what the church teaches but we now – in our generation – must tell the world why the church teaches what it teaches. And in the same manner, Nouwen said that we can only be relevant by being irrelevant and vulnerable to the world. We want to do more because we believe that we have not done enough. And that is right because only God can do “enough” in our lives. And that is the vulnerability we must share with the world. And so we struggle to love our neighbors as ourselves – always and in all ways: giving of our time, sharing our weaknesses, asking what Jesus would do.

Postulants and aspirants for Holy Orders are often taken aback when asked during their interview with the Standing Committee, “Do you know what colorosis is?” Colorosis is not in the dictionary, but it describes a sometimes fatal defect in many men who would be deacons or priests. Colorosis describes an obsession and a wanting to be spectacular; like having Ph.D. after one’s name or a set of antlers above one’s fireplace. But there is also the senior warden who thinks the priest is his employee or the bishop who lives a medieval aristocratic lordship. But the cure is simple, “Feed my sheep.” And it’s not just material things like shelter and food; to feed the sheep also means teaching the sheep why the church is important by the way we live are lives. How will each of us be remembered? What will our spiritual obituary say? Did we show our brothers and sisters how a faithful churchman lives? Did we teach the faith and not compromise with the world, the flesh, and the Devil?

Jesus says today that we shall be known by the fruits we bring to fruition. But he does not mean the fruits of this world with its vain pomp and pursuit of power and glory. And the strongest form of power is to lead; that is to get others to bend to our will and do things our way. The pursuit of power (like the need to be relevant or spectacular) is deadly because it is a substitute for love. And like feeding the sheep and loving our neighbor, the cure for power means the realization that we do not have to lead all the time, but we can and ought consciously to step back and let someone else lead. It means telling God and our neighbor that we are sorry for our sins and that we can learn. It is in this light that Jesus’ words at the end of the Gospel take true perspective, *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

My dear friends; we cannot disconnect the way we live from the words we speak. We are all prophets and preachers! Saint Francis gave away all his fancy clothes and possessions which were the temptations of relevancy, being the center of attention and the lust for power; and only then was he ready to do God’s work. Only then was he ready to preach to Gospel with or without words. We’re not called to his austerity, but we are called to his vocation to preach and be the true prophets of our Blessed Lord.



July 4, Pics from St. Joseph's Chapel
Lucinda Smith and Granddaughter Claire with Dean Napier

Workday at Church of Our Saviour, Los Angeles

On a hot July 10 – But worth it!



Father Shaddix Comes Home

As a young priest, Father Larry Shaddix along with Canon Richard McNeely was sent by Archbishop Morse around twenty years ago to help start Saint Francis of Assisi mission first in Danville in Contra Costa County and then in the Livermore area of nearby Alameda County. Finally, Father Benjamin Brown was called to be the first Rector of Saint Francis Parish and, after his retirement in June, Father Shaddix was elected the second Rector of Saint Francis. The photos below were taken at Father Shaddix's institution on Saint James' Day, July 25, 2021.



Anglican Church Women Notes, August 2021

For the past two weeks, I have been fortunate to sit in on the summer session of St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. I am humbled to realize how little I know about Christianity in general, its roots, and its development through the ages. I have been an Anglican all my life, and yet I have given far too little thought to where we came from, and the immense history of the church and the interpretation of the books of the Bible. These two weeks have given me even more respect for our clergy, and the huge amount of work they put into being qualified to become bishops, priests, and deacons. We laity owe them all our thanks and respect and should always keep them in our prayers. I urge ACW members, and especially office holders to follow some of these courses and to deepen your knowledge of our church. You will find details of upcoming courses in this newsletter. Provincial ACW has raised over \$3000 this year from Lenten Offerings, which will go to St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. When you consider that many churches were closed until the second quarter of this year, this is an amazing amount, and we thank you all for your generosity. Don't forget to send photos and brief descriptions of any events you may have this summer to Bishop Ashman (bishopashman@gmail.com) for inclusion in The Shepherd's Staff. It is a great way for all of us to feel included!

Gillian Golden. President ACW-DWS

2022 Ordo Kalendars

The 2022 Ordo Kalendars are in preparation and are available for ordering. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and the American and Anglican Missals and is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other information after receiving the Kalendars. Nona has mailed out order forms but if lost or you didn't get an order form, you may direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email Ordo Kalendar website: order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com.

Orate Fratres

Please pray for Bishop Mitchell, our new Suffragan Bishop and for Bishop Hansen our new Coadjutor Bishop along with **ALL** the priests and deacons of our Diocese and Province. Please pray for our Archbishop John and our Archbishop Emeritus Frederick, along with Bishops Schultz (Diocese of the Atlantic States) and Wiygul (retired, Diocese of the Southern States). And please include Canon Ben Jones who, Deo Volente, will be consecrated in mid-September. Please believe me, all our clergy are over worked and under great stress with families to care for and many working secular jobs; and they need our prayers and support.

Pray for all those who despair and struggle to find the gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity in these troubled times. Pray for each other. Be forgiving of one another. Pray for the Church and our Province. Pray for the unity of God's People. Pray for peace, social justice, and for those who seek Holy Orders. Pray for those who have died in the service of our country, along with the sick (especially those struck down with COVID19). Finally, pray for the suffering and walking wounded, the lonely and the friendless, and the needy of mind, body, or estate.

Prudence

As we continue to reopen our churches, please remember that prudence and the safety of our parish families are of the utmost importance. It may be that some of our parishes (like mine in Los Angeles) will have to temporarily shut down on certain weekends due to spikes in the virus rates – the Delta Variant has already done that once. The bright spot in this pestilence has been the effective use many of our clergy have made of Zoom and other platforms to keep our parish families connected.

The Last Word – Something to Think About

An old story is told that, to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her small son to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked: "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed, and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted, and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on the stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, and quickly moved to the piano, he whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

Well, that's the way it is with God. A lot of people in the audience were angry at the concert. How dare that child! Who are that child's irresponsible parents? This lack of forgiveness is not only epidemic in our society but becoming endemic. Ever drive on the freeway? Or read the paper? Or try to share an opinion? In our age of entitlement, it is sometimes so hard to forgive or know when to speak or not to speak. But like the maestro in my taddled tale, God is there to mesmerize us and to help us.