

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector
October 2023
<https://stpetersacc.org>

The Rector's Ramble (In and out of Brambles)

A Little Behind



Beloved, I love books... and I love that I serve a congregation that loves books. I have a confession to make! I am a bit behind on reading the books that you have given me to read. They are piling up. Between what the congregation either writes or provides to me, as well as what the folks in the community write and hope that I will read, I am heavy laden. Forgive me!

Of course, there are book studies and poem studies and courses that I teach for one of our G3 seminaries or at a community college that need to be prepped for.

On top of that, my priority should be, really must be, preparing my sermons for you every Sunday. That's where the bulk of my studies should rest. Alas, so often what should be first is last and what should be last is first.

But I do love that you are a congregation that shares a love of books with me, and I wanted to share that I am working on getting to them!

The Honorary Curate's Corner (Fr. Seeley speaks)

Last week I was at a convention where religious men's groups were gathered, the theme was an interest in Knights Templar; both historically and modern. There were various denominations in the crowd, but some were from a Roman Catholic group. They proclaimed with some joy that the Pope had granted their order 6 days of Indulgence for their order, and they proceeded to explain what that meant.

Here's what they said:

Sin is like breaking a window. You can apologize for breaking it (and you should if you do), but that does not repair the window. You can go to confession and be forgiven for the act of breaking it, but the window is still broken. Your good works of faith and charity are needed to repair the damage, if it's not repaired in your lifetime, then you go to Purgatory to repay the temporal punishment due to your sin: and in addition you can ask for indulgences to supposedly save you from some extra time in purgatory.

As I listened to their presentation I realized how much I disagreed with them. For Anglicans sin is not like breaking a window: that's a very brutal and external way of looking at it. For Anglicans the soul can be seen as a garden. Prayer is the water, the Eucharist is the sunlight, and charity is the fertilizer... and sins are like weeds. The garden of the soul is a place to be enjoyed and time spent there with God. It is a place where God and the soul can be happy together, but for that to happen the garden must be well maintained. There are different kinds of trees, flowers and smaller plants in the garden based upon each person's tastes and talents, these plants and flowers can be nourished to be beautiful for God. There is a path through the garden wherein God and the soul can walk together.

Weeds will inevitably spring up due to Original Sin: these weeds make it difficult to walk that path of the garden, and make it likely that you will miss the path at some point and step on a flower, or or some other pretty plant. If you do step on a flower on account of straying off the path, you need to get back on the path, and then add more water and sunlight, and some fertilizer, and the flower will heal in time: take care of your garden, and it will take care of you.

Grace builds upon nature and mankind's nature is fallen, but the work of redemption is a cooperative work, God and man do it together. So a more correct understanding of sin and grace is like unto a garden, and not like a broken window which is something unnatural and which can only be repaired from some external source replacing it.

Do Anglicans believe in Purgatory? They can; it is alluded to in the Scriptures (2 Macc 12:45 and 1 Cor 3:15) so we can allude to it, but as there is no clear teaching in the Scriptures, so we cannot be certain of it, nor legislate it as the Romans do. God bless. Fr. Seeley

News and Information

October 18th - St. Luke's Day, Mass at 6 PM

October 25th - Vestry Meeting at 7:30 PM, preceded by Mass at 7 PM. Poem Study meets at 6 PM, prior to mass rather than after!

October 28th - Ss. Simon & Jude, Vespers and Mass at 5 PM

October 31st - Vigil of All Saints, Vespers & Mass at 4 PM

November 1st - All Saints' Day, Festive Holy Communion at 7 PM

November 2nd - All Souls' Day, Requiem Mass at 12 Noon; PRC Banquet that Evening

November 11th - Martinmas & Veterans' Day celebration, 5 PM

OCTOBER, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XVII	[2]	[3]	[4] 6:00 p.m. HC	[5] 12 noon HC	[6]	[7] 5:00 p.m. HC
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XVIII	[9]	[10]	[11] 6:00 p.m. HC	[12] 12 noon HC	[13]	[14] 5:00 p.m. HC
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XIX	[16]	[17]	[18] 6:00 p.m. HC	[19] 12 noon HC	[20]	[21] 5:00 p.m. HC
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XX	[23]	[24]	[25] 6:00 p.m. Poem study 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[26] 12 noon HC	[27]	[28] 5:00 p.m. Vespers & Mass SS. SIMON & JUDE
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XXI	[30]	[31] 4:00 p.m. Vespers & Mass ALL SAINTS	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction			

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Coffee Hour	B. Von Claparede	M. Slayton	E. Paisley	J. Butterfield	G. Terrell
Sat. Epistoler 5 p.m.	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede
Epistoler 10 a.m.	T. Paisley	P. Williams	G. Terrell	T. Paisley	P. Williams

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

2023 Vestry (term end): Allen Butterfield (?25), Dan Drysdale (?23), Lisa Olver (?24),
 Ted Paisley (?24), Mike Slayton (?25), Phil Williams (?23)