



*St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI*

*Weekly Newsletter
June 11, 2017*



Interim Rector - Father Ed Hunt
The Pagan Problem of the Church

Without a working CD player in your car, you are left to radio. In remote areas, we opt for country. My favorite is "We're a drinking town with a football problem". The title is an example of a current linguistic trend: "they are a drinking club with a fundraising problem", "a drinking college with an achievement problem", etc. So here is my understanding of The Trinity: "We're a pagan religion with a monotheism problem."

Explain Matthew 28:19 while also saying Christianity is a monotheistic religion results in frustration. The Trinity is unique to Matthew. Shouldn't the Gospel writers have given us more to go on, since The Trinity is so *important* and all? Trinitarian Doctrine was invented *after* the Gospels were written, in the context of Greek, not Jewish, culture. Whenever I think about "three persons of one substance", I end up banging my head against a wall and eating a pound of chocolate chip cookies. Then, amidst the broken plaster and the crumbs, I realize Holy Mother Church uses pagan European logic (Plato) to explain Asian monotheism (Judaism). That's like trying to nail a screw with a wrench: you can, but it's difficult to do without damage.

It's time to face our pagan problem and give into it. Our major holidays are pagan holidays with a Christian varnish: *Yule* and *Oester*. Asking for a saint to guide you may not be

different from a pagan practice, but convincing someone of that difference will take time, new plaster and more cookies. What about Christian artwork created through the centuries? Or the statues at the back of the church? (I mean, really, who is to say that the strobe effect on St. Michael *isn't* Holy, or at least, ... profound?) Doctrine is important because it pushes us to truth rather than misguided human whim. Doctrine does not feed the hungry, clothe the naked or bring justice to the poor. Our capacity to understand the Mind of God is limited. We have a limitless capacity for love. Let's do that instead.

In the Name of the Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I am.

Fr. Ed

Summer Study Series

A summer series, led by Richard Simonds, will explore **Christianity and World Religions**. This course will look at comparing Christianity to Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. Here are some of the questions we will explore: How should Christians view other religions? How is God at work in other religions?

We will meet in the Lounge from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., every other Thursday on June 8th, June 22nd, July 6th, July 20th, August 3rd, and August 17th. The cost of the book, **Christianity and World Religions** is \$6. The books will be available in the office before the first class on June 8th.

Please sign up in Yeoman Hall. Any questions can be directed to Richard Simonds or Elaine Backhurst. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

St. Michael's Book Group
Saturday, June 17th

On Saturday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge, we will be discussing Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger. All are welcome to come!

Thrift Shop Thank You Luncheon
Saturday, June 17th

The Thrift Shop will be having their annual Thank You luncheon for all workers on June 17th at 1:00 p.m. in Yeoman Hall. Please sign up in the Thrift Shop Office if you WILL or WILL NOT ATTEND. This signup will allow us to know that all workers are aware of the luncheon.

The Little Thrift Shop News

Thrift Shop workers have been receiving great choices for your summer wardrobe. Come in and find your favorite pair of shorts or capris to wear with a lovely top or blouse. Also available are sun dresses and cute sandals to round off your summer style.

Also, the Thrift Shop recently received a number of Willow Tree figurines. They are boxed and ideal for gift giving!

The Little Thrift Shop is accepting summer merchandise through July 14th. The Shop will also be open the fourth Sunday of each month: June 25th, July 23rd, August 27th, and September 24th.

Sign-up for Altar Flowers

Do you have a special person or celebration you would like to dedicate altar flowers to? You can now sign up for any Sunday. The cost is \$37.50 for one vase or \$75.00 for both vases. Sign-up sheet is in the Office, or call 313-884-4820 or email stmichaelsgpw@gmail.com.

We Honor/Celebrate Today

In loving memory of Michael Skaff from Carolyn Skaff and family.

Thank You's

A big thank you goes out to Elly Garzel and Kathie Groschner with their help in the Church Office this week. Thank you! Thank you!

St. Michael's Calendar

Just a friendly reminder to all who would like to schedule an event in the church, please check with the office to make sure everything is available.

Feast Day Festival News

There will be a St. Michael's Feast Day parish-wide planning meeting in Yeoman Hall on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

(between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services). Please attend and become part of the planning process for St. Michael's Feast Day! Refreshments will be served!

Pastoral Care or Emergencies

Father Ed may be reached by phone or text at 315-335-2912 for any pastoral care or emergencies and his email address is frhunt2002@gmail.com. Also the Church's voicemail and website have been updated and will have Father Ed's information as well.

Upcoming Events at St. Michael's	
Save the Date!	
June 17th	Thrift Shop Thank You Luncheon
June 17th	Book Group
July 2nd	Crossroads Soup Kitchen
Sept. 24th	St. Michael's Feast Day

Prayer List

Mike Bamford	Star Gilezan	Don Kalso	Pam Stanley
Barbara Bangs	Peter Gilezan	Jack Manko	Frederick Stringer
Sterling Berry	Jan Graham	Eileen Schmitt-Matzen	James Sutton
Ed Binder	Peter Groschner	Ronald Schulze	Margaret Taylor
Chris Christopoulos	Vic Harper	Scott Simon	Jim Thompson
Kathie Crook	Ruth & Beverly Hatcher	Jan Smith	Deacon Jack Trembath
Deacon John Fitzgerald	Jack Huckins	Dottie Steiger	

Assisting at our Services Interim Reverend Edward Hunt

8:00 AM	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Acolyte	R. Rhein	J. Zink	W. Rogers	J. Zink	R. Rhein	J. Zink	W. Rogers	W. Rogers
Altar Guild	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg
Chalice Bearer	J. Rhein	L. Schmitt-Matzen	C. MacDonald	J. Zink	J. Rhein	L. Schmitt-Matzen	C. MacDonald	J. Zink
Lector	J. Rhein	G. McQueen	Dianne Pegg	G. Gilezan +C. MacDonald	J. Rhein	G. McQueen	Dianne Pegg	L. Schmitt-Matzen
Ushers	P. Gibson D. Backhurst	W. Rogers A. Grayr	D. Pegg, D. Pegg	D. Schmitt- Matzen L. Schmitt- Matzen	P. Gibson D. Backhurst	W. Rogers A. Grayr	D. Pegg, D. Pegg	C. MacDonald M. Miller

10:30 am	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Acolytes								
Altar Guild	L. Wood P. Wood	M. Isenberg G. Davenport	L. Wood P. Wood	J. Graham K. Johnson	L. Wood P. Wood	M. Isenberg G. Davenport	L. Wood P. Wood	L. Wood P. Wood
Chalice Bearer	D. Ludlow J. Zink	D. Lockhart M. Miller	C. MacDonald B. Davenport	S. Graham D. Ludlow	D. Ludlow B. Davenport	D. Lockhart B. Davenport	J. Zink C. MacDonald	S. Graham B. Davenport
Counters	L S-Matzen M Krawczek	D Scrace J Patee	K O'Connor	G McQueen D Lockhart	J Graham B Pappas	F Twiddy B Barringer	L S-Matzen M Krawczek	D Scrace J Patee
Greeters	G. Davenport B. Davenport	E. Garzel	B. Sheehy J. Sheehy	B. Thompson J. Thompson	J. Graham K. Johnson	G. Davenport B. Davenport	E. Garzel	B. Sheehy J. Sheehy
Lector	E. Garzel	M. Miller	B. Payton	M Krawczyk	F. Twiddy	R. Simonds	J. Zink	B. Davenport
Prayers	J. Zink	B. Payton	L. Gaskin	E. Garzel	B. Davenport	E. Garzel	C. MacDonald	C. Hakim
Ushers	P. Dyble P. Groschner C. Skaff J. Saunders N. Saunders	N. Hahn K. Hahn E. Garzel B. Greening	D. Scrace J. Graham K. Johnson	D. Zmyslowski S. Graham J. Sheehy B. Sheehy F. Stringer	B. Payton J. Payton G. Morketter J. Zink G. Peller	P. Dyble P. Groschner C. Skaff J. Saunders N. Saunders	N. Hahn K. Hahn E. Garzel B. Greening	D. Scrace J. Graham K. Johnson



*I am the True Vine
Abide in me...
He who abides in me,
and I in him,
brings forth much fruit.
Abide in my Love.
John 15:1-9*

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