



St. Mary Magdala Spiritual Center is the ministry center of The Community of the Cross, an intentional community of Christians affiliated with the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America. ALL ARE WELCOME



St. Mary Magdala Spiritual Center

FIRST SUNDAY

September 2018, Vol 12, Issue 9

2800 Rolston Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

A New Year?

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September 1 is the beginning of the Eastern Orthodox Church year. While we think of January 1 as the beginning of the year, the tradition of computing the start of a new year with autumn was common to the lands of the Bible and to all the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored, and people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year.

According to Orthodox tradition, Jesus came to Nazareth to preach the good news of his mission on September 1st. Of course, that's just a tradition and can't be verified - in fact the months we now have are very different than the months they had then. So let's not get too literal. We are a Western jurisdiction of Orthodoxy, we follow the western calendar and our feasts are pretty much the same as the ones that the other churches in the new world celebrate. We follow the Revised Common Lectionary for our readings and feastdays.

All that being said, it is September and fall is coming to our northern hemisphere. It is a time of change in our weather and in our lives. We will be getting cooler and cooler and the farmers around us will be gathering in more and more of the harvest as fall goes on. If you haven't driven around the country near Fort Wayne for a while, I suggest you take a nice easy drive and look at the crops, the fields as they are changing colors, the corn, the pumpkins and squash that are in the fields, and get in the mood for this upcoming season - a season of letting go. We will be observing the leaves letting go of the trees, the fruit letting go of the vines and the question then becomes, what will we be letting go of this fall?

Letting go leads me to the via negativa of Meister Eckhart. When "letting go" comes up, the question is always "of what?" What is it we let go of this season or any season? Perhaps it's an attachment to a childhood image of God, the Church and ourself. Just a perhaps. While many of us yearn for that "old time religion" many of us realize that it was not a religion for adults. Critical thinking wasn't always supported or entertained and in many ways religion was saved for Sunday or maybe Sunday and Wednesday evening depending on your church.

Maybe we need to let go of an image of God that is based on magical thinking rather than faith; maybe we need to let go of an image of God who is distant and "out there" rather than a God who is with us, within us, all around us. A God who we sang about last week, "Great Spirit circles all around me."

Eckhart's most distinctive teaching is probably his teaching that the eternal birth of the Word from the Father is 'now born in time, in human nature' ... that, if nothing

Sunday Liturgy

10:00 AM

2800 Rolston Street
Fort Wayne

All are Welcome!

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separates our souls and God, the birth of the hidden Word can take place in the depths of our souls.

Where I sit is holy, holy is the ground,
forest, mountain river, listen to the sound.

Who I am is holy, holy are we.
Body, thought, emotion, connecting you and me.

What I do is holy, holy is my way.
Work and play together, celebrate the day.

We can no longer imagine the LOVE that we call God, as an elsewhere God who manipulates creation to fulfill our wishes. We seek communion with God - a theosis - a state of union with the Divine, a state of union with our family, friends, neighbors and even our enemies. Fr. Rohr pointed out in one of his films: Whatever you do in a state of communion, connection, love, is prayer. Whatever you do outside of a state of union is not prayer. We seek to pray always.

+John

CLERGY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sep 2	+John	17 Pentecost
Sep 9	Cliff+	18 Pentecost
Sep 16	Charlene+	19 Pentecost
Sep 23	Jim+	20 Pentecost
Sep 30	+John	21 Pentecost
Oct 7	Cliff+	22 Pentecost

UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 2 - Anita and Tom Carter's
50th Anniversary Celebration**

**September 15, 4:00 PM at Beacon
Heights Church of the Brethren - Deacon
Charlene Rorick's Ordination to
Presbyterate**

**September 16, 10:00 Mother Charlene's
First Eucharist as Presider**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Anita and Tom as they celebrate their 50 years together and prayers for all those who are married or in a relationship that they may remember whatever they do in a state of communion, connection and love, is prayer.

Pray for patience for Buzz who is headed to Cleveland Clinic for some heart surgery. As of the printing of this bulletin we don't know when but his name is at least on their agenda.

Continue to remember Jim Tobolski as he heals from cancer and also Kris' sister and others who have this dreadful disease. Remember all those who are sick. May they heal quickly and may their family be strengthened in these times of need.

Pray for victims of violence and injustice. Pray most of all for justice - justice would prevent so much of the misery and problems that we face in our world and in our communities.

Pray for a sense of outrage at the violence, greed and waste in our world.

Pray for all people in those places that are experiencing or have experienced violence, destruction or any other events causing suffering.

Remember all of the Church in your prayers, each of us is struggling with something. We all have challenges as we go on our journeys.

Pray for those who are unemployed or under employed, for those who are lonely and alone.

Honor the earth, the waters and the sky and do what you can to stop pollution.

Pray for an end to genocide, apartheid and the displacement of people from their lands all over the globe. Let go of any form of racism, sexism, homophobia, agism and other forms of hatred and bigotry.

Pray that we may all grow stronger to be able to witness to the true Gospel message, a message of good news that God is Love and we who love God love our neighbor - God is here and we are one - all else is failing.

Meditating on a Cloudy Day

Archbishop Peter

During a brief stroll through my reference books on a dreary, overcast day, I discovered there are at least 102 uses of the word “cloud” in the Bible. And also, the word is used by the Bard, in his sonnets and plays. Who, for example, cannot be thrilled at the first two lines from the play Richard III:

"Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this son of York;
And all the clouds that lour'd upon our
homes
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried."

Wow! What a way to grab our attention from the very first sentence.

Cloud. We use the word just about every day in manners we never intend to be grand literature. We can be on cloud nine, or have our heads in the clouds; our clouds can have a silver lining or every silver lining comes with its cloud; there are dark clouds, storm clouds, gathering clouds, clouds of suspicion, under a cloud, clouded thinking. And while bright ideas and aha moments are illustrated with a shining light bulb, cartoons use dark clouds, sometimes with lighting bolts, to show frustration and anger.

In contrast, in all of ancient Egyptian literature, only two uses of that word have been found. Two. Perhaps the best explanation why comes from one of the kings of the 18th, dynasty, Akhenaten/Thutmose II (died about 1335 BCE) who wrote:

"An inundation from the sky for foreigners...
For Egypt the inundation that comes from
the underworld."

These lines from the Great Hymn of the Aten, express the Egyptian belief that the Nile rose from underground caverns in the south of Egypt beyond the First Cataract.

The ancients of that sacred land might not have needed clouds, but I daresay that the rest of us certainly do. What would we do without such a handy and ideal way to describe moods and

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Proper 17 (22)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 2, 2018

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15
James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Proper 18 (23)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 9, 2018

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 Isaiah
35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-10,
(11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Proper 19 (24)

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 16, 2018

Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 or
Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1 James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Proper 20 (25)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 23, 2018

Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1
Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or Jeremiah
11:18-20 Psalm 54 James 3:13
- 4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

Proper 21 (26)

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 30, 2018

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 Numbers
11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

Proper 22 (27)

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 7, 2018

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26
Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

situations, either weal or woe. And clouds themselves are a heavenly reminder that our sometime days of woe are passing, slowly or rapidly in the winds of the sky, but are moments of transition and change. Even when we are burdened, we can pray to the Almighty for dispersal of the grey clouds, then remember to thank God for being close enough, abiding with us, so we remember to pray.

And for those days of weal, or well, we can look to puffy clouds and remember that we when younger lay in the grass and sought to discern shapes in those heavenly bodies. In an older age, it isn't dragons or eagles we seek so much as we marvel at the painted skies of evening or dawn, when clouds are part of the divine composition of a morning day or dying day.

Glory be to God for all of creation. Glory be to God for the moveable feast of clouds which can be signals of distress or markers of great joy, or most often signs of our own and the contentment of skies and all nature. Glory be to God for eyes to see God's handiwork and souls to sing in thanks, petition, and praise.

ABOUT ORDINATION

Charlene will be ordained to the presbyterate on the 15th of September so I thought perhaps a few words about ordination are in order. Priests are not set apart from the community of believers but ordained within the community as a fellow member of the faith household. A person ordained to the office of presbyter is a spiritual elder, called upon to represent the bishop in presiding at the most important worship in the faith household: the divine liturgy (Mass, Holy Eucharist, Lord's Supper). A priest orders and presides over prayer, leading a holy dialog between God and God's people in the worship assembly.

In OCCA, we ordain women as priests. This was a challenging theological decision made in 1996 and at least one bishop left when this decision was made. It was based on the historical precedent that many women presided at Eucharist in the early days of the Church and also based on the fact that the Church was founded on principles of inclusion and equality. Jesus talked to women, learned from women, and it was women who were with him in his final hours. It was also a woman to whom he first appeared upon his resurrection. It was the cult of patriarchal society that suppressed and oppressed women as leaders in the Church. Please join us for her ordination on the 15th at Beacon Heights. She is "of us and for us" and welcomes your support.



SEPTEMBER 13 @ 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Manchester University College of
Pharmacy Theater (Dupont Campus)

10627 Diebold Rd. Fort Wayne, IN



Through riveting personal recollections of both Palestinian and Israeli veterans, soldiers, refugees, and historians, **1948: Creation and Catastrophe** uncovers memories of the establishment of Israel, the last chance to hear first-hand accounts of what took place in Haifa, Jaffa, Dayr Yasin, Acre, Jerusalem, Ramle, and Lydda from Israelis and Palestinians who personally fought in and fled from this land.. Free, open to the public.