



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Kindness

The next virtue in St. Paul's list of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is translated "gentleness." However, the word more generally used to translate *chrestotes* today is "kindness." The virtue of gentleness is implied in that of kindness, but kindness is much more than gentleness. Some commentators (for example, Vine) understand kindness to be goodness in its benign manifestations.

In a recent advertisement for a dating website, a young man asks a young lady what qualities she wants in her partner. She replies in words like these, "Someone funny...someone kind." At least she mentions one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit! The fact that she mentions kindness is significant. So often we have read of the opposites of kindness, such as cruelty and meanness, even in spouses. So many young women naturally want to avoid the kind of men who appear to be

loving and kind, but in fact, especially after marriage, suddenly become cruel and mean. Kindness is not a virtue that can be simulated for very long, particularly in a marriage. Innate unkindness will soon reveal itself. The very nature of fallen, sinful man is unkind, not kind, but it is in the nature of God Himself to be kind. Our Lord Jesus



Christ exemplifies this in all His life, for example saying:

Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find

rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

St. Matthew
11:28-30, ESV

The Greek word translated as "easy" is *chrestos*, which also means "kind." If human beings are being compared to oxen, then an easy yoke, or burden, is one that is light, neither heavy nor unbearable. Since the yoke that Jesus lays on us when we follow Him is easy, it is with the kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ that we must treat others. One commentator explains *chrestos* as "tender concern for others".

In *Romans 2:4* St. Paul warns the hypocritical religious man, who persists in sin while pretending to be righteous, that he should not despise the wealth of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience, and that he should not be ignorant of the truth that God's kind-

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The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Kindness

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ness is meant to lead him to repentance.

Kindness is one of those virtues with which the elect and beloved saints of God should clothe themselves, together with mercy, humility, meekness, and patience (*Colossians 3:12*). Together with these go forgiveness, forbearance, and love. Because they are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the abundant wealth of God's nature, we must use these virtues daily in our conduct and relationships.

One of the best-known passages of Scripture which show the kindness of God toward man is *St. Titus 3:4-6*, in which the saving actions of the Lord Jesus Christ reveal the appearance of God's kindness and love toward man.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and

renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

In this passage, God's kindness and love for man are linked to His mercy by which He saved us through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. God's kindness is revealed not only in these beginnings of salvation but also in the purpose of pouring out His Holy Spirit on all Christians,

Lord Jesus Christ demonstrates the fullness of His kindness to them, the abundant riches of His grace. The abundance of God's kindness to mankind and to all Christians is immeasurable, as is God's love for all people. In one of the shortest psalms, *Psalm 117*, we read that God's merciful kindness is "great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever" (verse 2).

Psalm 118 testifies that the mercy of the Lord endures for ever,

and this could be understood in terms of God's kindness since we have already seen the link between God's kindness

and mercy in various passages.

Long ago, when I was doing basic training in the South African army, I managed to get some of the cleaning lint stuck in the barrel of my rifle. The corporal sighed and said in Afrikaans, "The mercy of the Lord endureth forever." This was such an abnormally good response that it was refreshing! That time, and many other times, I have been thankful for the

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***O praise the LORD, all ye nations:
praise Him, all ye people.***

***For His merciful kindness is great toward us:
and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever.
Praise ye the LORD.***

Psalm 117

reconciling them with God and giving them an eternal inheritance, the legacy of God's kingdom. God's kindness in fact gives us the hope of eternal life in Christ.

In *Ephesians 2:6-7*, the spiritual session of Christians in Christ in the heavenly places has the purpose of showing "the exceeding riches of God's grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." We receive the impression from all of this that all that God has done for Christians through the

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Kindness

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mercy, kindness, and patience with which I have been treated by those who in so doing refreshed my soul.

It is possible to define kindness as a tender love for others whether they deserve it or not—in fact perhaps when they least deserve it—since mankind did not deserve God’s kindness in giving His own Son to redeem the world from sin.

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate,” said Albert Schweitzer. But kindness is not always met with kindness and an absence of hostility. Even when our kindness is met with misunderstanding, mistrust, or hostility, however, we are called as God’s children to continue actively exhibiting the virtues of the Holy Spirit (*Romans 12:14-21*). Generally speaking, in civilized society, kindness is well received and is more helpful to people than its sinful opposites. Aesop said that no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.

Ephesians 4:32 urges Christians to be kind to one to another, tenderhearted, and forgiving of

one another as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us. In this verse, kindness is partnered with being tenderhearted and forgiving of one another. We must understand that this is the ethic of God’s kingdom, since it reflects God’s nature and is commanded by Him. Attention has been drawn to the fact that the English word “kindness” is related to “kin” and “kindred.” Kindness, therefore, is treating others as kindly as family members should treat one another.



Just as God’s love abides forever with faith and hope, so kindness, being a virtue characteristic of God Himself, lasts forever. So, throughout our lives, as we grow older, we should not grow less kind because of increasing trials that we may have to bear. Instead, we should grow ever more kind, knowing how much we ourselves have need of kindness and realizing also that we must reflect more clearly and fully in our lives the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ. Wil-

liam Shakespeare wrote in his *Sonnet 105*, “Kind is my love today, tomorrow kind, / Still constant in a wondrous excellence” (lines 5-6). Our love must be constantly kind, since it flows from the Holy Spirit in us.

As we approach Lent, let us remember especially the constancy of God’s loving-kindness to others. His love for man certainly fulfills Shakespeare’s ideal reflected in these lines: “Love is not love / Which alters when it alteration finds” (*Sonnet 116*, lines 2-3).

Let us be aware of the dawn of God’s kindness through Jesus Christ in human history, and of how abundant God’s grace is toward us in His kindness, and let us be kind not only to our families and friends but to all our fellow-Christians and to all who cross our paths. By being kind, we might win another soul for God’s eternal kingdom or at least refresh and encourage someone who needs it.

In this respect, St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote in his *Epistle to the Ephesians*:

And pray ye without ceasing in behalf of other men. For there is in them hope of

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Kindness

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repentance that they may attain to God. See, then, that they be instructed by your works, if in no other way. Be ye meek in response to their wrath, humble in opposition to their boasting; to their blasphemies return your prayers; in contrast to their error, be ye steadfast in the faith; and for their cruelty, manifest your gentleness. While we take care not to imitate their conduct, let us be found their brethren in all true kindness; and let us seek to be followers of the Lord...

We know the harvest of sowing seeds of unkindness, cruelty, quarrelsomeness, and other evils, but have we sown seeds of kindness in our relationships? Do we realize what a great harvest can result if we do this?

— *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

Notes from Our Annual Meeting

First, thank you to everyone who turned in a proxy form or had time to attend our Annual Meeting. Besides the normal report on church finances, we needed to make a decision about which diocese we would like to join since our current diocese will no longer exist after Bishop Mott retires. For the record, we are currently in the Diocese of the West (DOW) in the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) which is part of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA).

When Bishop Mott announced that he was retiring this year, a committee in the REC evaluated the viability of the DOW and decided that the DOW wouldn't be continued. Then the Standing Committee from the still existent DOW looked into several options. They suggested that we join the Missionary Diocese of All Saints. I'll return to this option in a bit.

While the Vestry was waiting for the suggestion of which diocese the Standing Committee thought we should join, the Vestry looked at some other options:

1. We could join the Diocese of Mid-America. This would be a lateral move within the REC. The DMA requires that if

the communicant membership of a parish falls below 30 for two consecutive years, that parish shall be given the status of a Mission Parish with all the limitations to which Mission Parishes are subject under DMA Canons. If we joined this diocese, we would have to become a mission, which would mean that the bishop would take over management of St. Luke's. This option was not considered further because changing to a mission would be in conflict with our By-Laws.

2. We also looked at the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin which is a local diocese of the ACNA. ADSJ is involved in a lawsuit with the Episcopal Church over ownership of church property. If we joined ADSJ we would get involved with this lawsuit, which is not something we need to do.
3. The Missionary Diocese of All

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Notes from Our Annual Meeting

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Saints is part of the ACNA so we would not be changing part of our reporting structure. The advantage to this option is that we would be able to stay as a convocation, which is a diocese in formation within the MDAS, with the rest of the churches that join us. We would also remain as a parish, so we would be able to handle our church business as we have in the past.

4. The last option was to stay independent and join

another diocese at a later time. The disadvantages to this option are that we would not have a bishop available for Confirmations and we would not be a part of the larger Anglican Communion.

Before the Annual Meeting, the Vestry unanimously agreed to follow the Standing Committee's recommendation that we join the MDAS. On Sunday, February 21st, at our Annual Meeting, after verifying that we had quorum, the church membership voted to join the MDAS. We had one "no" vote, but the rest of the votes were to join the MDAS, so that

is what we will be doing.

The Vestry will be monitoring this process so that the transition is smooth. We will probably be transitioning before summer, but we don't know the exact date yet.

In other business, a new Vestry was elected to serve our parish family. The new Vestry is:

Kathy Slattery,
Senior Warden

Tony Brown,
Junior Warden

Jana Baldwin,
Secretary

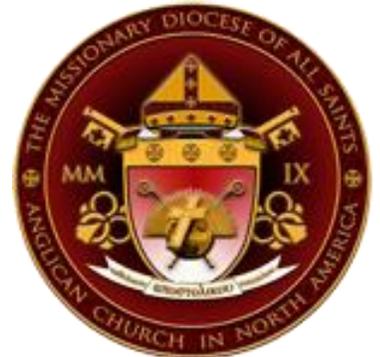
Elodia Boreham,
Treasurer

Clark Patteson,
Sexton

Ray Boreham

Mark Cameron

– *Kathy Slattery*



***God of all,
may our congregation
be aware of our part in Your larger Church.
Draw us all together
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ
into every walk of life,
together serving Him in His mission to the world,
and together witnessing to His love
in our city and particularly in our local community.
Amen.***

Steeping in God

This is the third of my musings on how making a traditional Christmas pudding can remind us of some of the many ways God works in our lives. After gathering our ingredients and noting how God gathers us into congregations and other circles of fellow Christians to strengthen and support us in our spiritual journeys, we looked at how chopping and grating relate to God's discipline and pruning of those He loves as He carefully tends our spiritual growth and development. Following the "Ultimate Christmas Pudding" recipe I found at www.nigella.com, I see that it is now time to talk about steeping.

In the recipe, dried currants, raisins, and plums are placed in a liqueur bath and left to steep for up to one week. Just to be clear on the process, let's have a look at the definition of the verb *to steep*:

1. to soak in water or other liquid, as to soften, cleanse, or extract some constituent: *to steep tea in hot water*.
2. to wet thoroughly in or with a liquid; drench; saturate; imbue.
3. to immerse in or

saturate or imbue with some pervading or absorbing influence or agency: *an incident steeped in mystery*.

Notice that steeping leads to transformation, a change so pervasive that—though one may still recognize the fruit and the liqueur in the resulting product—both are dramatically altered. God Himself does not change¹. As *Hebrews 13:8* declares, "Jesus Christ is the same yester-



day and today and forever." Even so, God actively works to change those who belong to Him.

How does He do this? He doesn't douse us and leave us in a quiet corner. No, God works differently; He requires our willing input and participation in the transformational process². First He fills us with His indwelling Holy Spirit³, and then He calls us to surround ourselves with His Word⁴, to purposefully live out the Gospel⁵,

and to pray without ceasing⁶. That's right: Being a Christian comes with attendant responsibilities, and it takes constant effort on our part. This is not to say that we have anything to do with the transformation God brings about in our lives. The truth is that He does all the work to conform us to the image of Christ. It's just that we must submit to His will and His work in our lives, and our submission must be a daily endeavor.

Submission is, to put it frankly, very difficult. It goes against the grain of our human nature⁷. However, God knows this about us, and He gives us several ways to make submission easier by giving us ways to know Him better. After all, the more we get to know Him, the more we come to love Him. The more we come to love Him, the more we will obey Him⁸, and the more we obey Him, the more like His Son Jesus we become.

The first way God gives us to know Him better is to give us His indwelling Holy Spirit. This is huge, because the Holy Spirit testifies to us about Jesus⁹, guides us into all truth¹⁰, tells us what is yet to come¹¹, and glorifies God¹². No believer can ever be separated from God¹³, be-

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Steeping in God

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cause His Holy Spirit lives within our hearts¹⁴.

Another way God gives us to know Him better is through Bible study. The Bible is God's written revelation of Himself. The more familiar with Scripture we become, the more familiar we will be with the attributes of God's character. Just knowing God's character has a tremendous effect upon a believer. I remember that the first time I made daily Bible reading and prayer a part of my life, I felt as if God were physically rearranging the molecules in my body. As I have continued, I feel as if He is changing my thoughts to bring them more into line with His will. This is all very exciting and sometimes startling. I hope you have experienced the transformational power of Bible study in your life!

God regards Bible study as of great importance to His people. He commanded Israel to bind Scriptures on their hands and foreheads, to tie them on the posts of their doors, to teach them to their children, and to talk about them at home and while going about their daily business¹⁵. Jesus told the Pharisees that they erred because they did not know Scripture or the power of God¹⁶.

Reading Scripture alone is not enough, however. We are also called

to live out the Gospel in a very deliberate, conscious way¹⁷. As St. Paul advised St. Timothy, "the Holy Scriptures ... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus¹⁸. We have to learn the Scriptures, pray for understanding as they are grafted upon our hearts, and then look for and use the opportunities which come into our days to apply what we have learned. If imitation is the sincerest compliment, then we all need to strive to imitate Christ every day.

Prayer is another major means of transformation, because prayer is, after all, conversation with God. Good conversations allow room for all parties to both speak and listen. Take time to listen to God. Seek Him, and He will reveal Himself to you in a very personal way¹⁹. As you practice listening for God's revelation, you will find that you have an increasingly dynamic, vital relationship with Him. Prayer is so vital to the Christian way of life that we are told to pray without ceasing²⁰.

As we steep in God's Word, His will, and His presence, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus²¹. Thanks be to God!

— Kim Vogel

Footnotes

1. **Numbers 23:19; Psalm 55:19; St. James 1:17**
 2. **Philippians 2:12-13; I St. Peter 2:2; St. Jude 3**
 3. **Acts 2:4; Acts 4:31; Acts 13:52**
 4. **Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Deuteronomy 11:18-20**
 5. **St. John 13:23-24; Ephesians 5; St. James 1:22-25**
 6. **I Samuel 12:23; Nehemiah 1:6; St. Matthew 26:41; St. Mark 25:38; St. Luke 18:1-8; Acts 1:14; Acts 3:42; Acts 16:25; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; I Thessalonians 5:17**
 7. **Romans 3:10-18; Jeremiah 17:9**
 8. **St. John 14:15**
 9. **St. John 15:26**
 10. **St. John 16:13**
 11. **Ibid**
 12. **St. John 16:14**
 13. **Romans 8:35-39**
 14. **I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19; II Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22**
 15. **Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Deuteronomy 11:18-20**
 16. **St. Matthew 22:29**
 17. **St. James 1:22**
 18. **II St. Timothy 3:15**
 19. **II Chronicles 15:2; Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13**
 20. **II Thessalonians 5:17**
 21. **Philippians 1:6**
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Parish Postings

There will be a special Choral Evensong service on Friday, March 11th, at 7:00 PM. The St. Andrew's Choir from St. Andrew's Academy in Lake Almanor, California, will be joining us for this beautiful prayer service, and there will be a reception in McNeely Hall afterward. Please contact Bridgitte Parrish if you would like to donate treats for the reception.



Israel Cummings invites everyone to come to his Boy Scout troop's Pancake Fundraiser on Saturday, March 12th. The scouts will serve pancakes from 10:00 AM to noon at Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 330 Ravenswood Avenue in Menlo Park. The breakfast is Boy Scout Troop 206 of Menlo Park's only fundraiser. Tickets cost \$5 and may be ordered from Israel at:

Israel.L.Cummings@gmail.com



Joanna's Circle is a women's group which meets monthly in McNeely Hall for prayer, fellowship, and mutual support in living the Christian life. Any interested woman is heartily encouraged to join our circle! The next meeting is Saturday, March 19th, at 9:30 AM. A light breakfast will be served. Please contact Julia McNeely if you have any questions.



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, March 20th, immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service. Parishioners are welcome to observe the meeting if they wish.



It is the custom at St. Luke's to offer lilies to beautify the sanctuary on

Resurrection Sunday in memory of those who, though with us in spirit, are not physically present to celebrate this great feast with us. If you would like to offer one or more lilies, look for the special lily envelopes near the Altar Flower Chart in the narthex. Please complete the form on the envelope so that your donation may be recorded by the Treasurer, and please e-mail your dedication to Father Parrish by Monday, March 21st, so that he may include it in the worship bulletin. The Altar Guild asks for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of each lily. Thank you!



Holy Week is a series of services commemorating the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ's earthly life. Please join us for all the services you are able to attend. You will be blessed by each one!

**March 20th
Palm Sunday
10:00 AM**

*Children's Procession
with Palms
and Holy Communion*

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Parish Postings

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In recalling the festive, joyful atmosphere of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the children of the parish distribute the blessed palms to the congregation.



March 24th Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

*Feet Washing,
Holy Communion,
and Stripping of the Altar*

The washing of feet reminds us of our Lord's command to lovingly serve one another. The Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service commemorates His institution of the Sacrament and His command that we continue it until He comes again. Stripping the altar reminds us of the humiliations our Saviour willingly bore for us as He travelled from Gethsemane to the garden tomb.



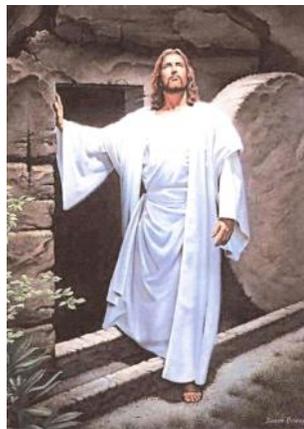
March 25th Good Friday 7:00 PM

*Holy Communion
from Reserved Sacrament*

The Good Friday Holy Communion service is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday service.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will celebrate the great and glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on Sunday, March 27th, with Holy Communion services at 10:00 AM and noon. Please join us as we rejoice in His triumph!



The 2016 Synod of the Diocese of the West of the Reformed Episcopal Church will be held at St. John's Anglican Church in Boerne, Texas, from

Tuesday, April 5th, through Thursday, April 7th. We are grateful to the Reverend Mr. Peter and Kim Vogel, who will be representing St. Luke's at the final Synod of the Diocese of the West as it transitions to the Convocation of the West in the Missionary Diocese of All Saints of the Anglican Church in North America. [Note: Please see *Notes from Our Annual Meeting* on page 4 for more information.]

Please pray that:

- the Synod will be a God-honoring, Spirit-filled event;
- every delegate will seek and boldly perform the will of God in all our considerations and decisions;
- we will be of one mind even as we are of one family in Christ Jesus; and
- God will select and specially anoint the Convocational Vicar-General to be elected at the Synod.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 6th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

*Bible Study: **Ephesians***

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion
with Healing Service*

10:00 AM

Friday, March 11th

Evensong

featuring the St. Andrew's Academy Choir

7:00 PM

Reception following in McNeely Hall

Sunday, March 13th

Passion Sunday

*Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 AM—
set your clocks ahead 1 hour!*

*Bible Study: **Ruth***

9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Saturday, March 19th

Joanna's Circle

9:30 AM

Sunday, March 20th

Palm Sunday

*Bible Study: **Ruth***

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion
with Distribution of Palms*

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

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Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 10)

Thursday, March 24th

Maundy Thursday

*Holy Communion
with Washing of Feet
and Stripping of the Altar*
7:00 PM

Friday, March 25th

Good Friday

*Holy Communion
from Reserved Sacrament*
7:00 PM

Sunday, March 27th

Resurrection Sunday

*Bible Study: **Ruth***
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Holy Communion
noon

Sunday, April 3rd

The First Sunday after Resurrection Sunday

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

*Bible Study: **Ruth***
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM



Tuesday, April 5th, through Thursday, April 7th

2016 Synod of the Diocese of the West
of the Reformed Episcopal Church

*St. John's Anglican Church
Boerne, Texas*



The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST,
THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
A FOUNDING JURISDICTION OF
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

*"A place
where the Bible is taught."*



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First Sunday of each month

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Third and fifth Sunday each month and Feast Days

Holy Communion
10:00 AM