

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
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St Francis



April 3, 2019

Strong Hearts

*For it is a good thing that
the heart be strengthened with grace
Hebrews 13:9*

Strong Hearts

It does not take long to discover that following Jesus is not for the fainthearted. It does not take long after that to discover that strengthening our hearts is not something we can do ourselves. In fact, we soon discover that hearts established and strengthened to follow Jesus are made strong and sure by our encounters with God. It is by the grace of God, the unmerited love, the complete favor God has towards us that strengthens our hearts. As Thomas Merton has written, ". . . the effect of his grace is to make us freely do his will." The more we receive from God the more we choose to follow Jesus. In the words of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, "That by Thy great goodness we may be governed and preserved (page 132)." It is the grace and goodness of God that strengthens our hearts.

Growing in the Strength of Jesus

The question that usually comes up is how to we receive this grace and goodness of God? Do I do something to earn or deserve it? Not really. Just having the desire to receive the grace of God is something that God has put in your heart in the first place. Placing yourself in the position to keep receiving the grace of God is how we grow stronger. Taking time to just let God speak to you, lead you, otherwise relate to in anyway that is on God's mind will put you in a position to receive the grace and goodness of God. The grace of God will actually govern you and guide you into that kind of life. It will make you thirsty to be in position to receive.

How is God asking you to receive more grace today?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, April 7, 2019 Worship at 10:00am

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 Vestry Committee at 4:00pm

Sunday April 14, 2019 Palm Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Thursday, April 18, 2019 Maundy Thursday Service at 6:15pm

Friday, April 19, 2019 Good Friday Service at 6:15pm

Sunday, April 21, 2019 Easter Worship at 10:00am

The first Sunday of each month, after church, Karen & Chris Webber will be collecting donated food from the Food Lion in Centerville and taking it to the food pantry. This would be an ideal time for anyone in the church to bring in their own donations!! The food pantry is in dire need of cereal, canned soups, and canned vegetables (not generally things donated by grocery stores). If this is something you would like to contribute to, just bring it to church and we would make sure it was delivered to the food pantry.

Please help us in the fun sharing our favorite recipes, in the form of a St. Francis cookbook. Please bring your recipes to the pot luck each month, and give to Libby or Karen. You can also email to lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Centerville Imports, That the business would increase and many vehicles in the area would operate safely and efficiently.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of St. Mary's, Reedville; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of th Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of Meath & Kildare (Ireland) The Most Revd Patricia Louise Storey (Diocesan Bishop) West Ankole (Uganda) The Rt Revd Johnson Twinomujuni (Diocesan Bishop) West Buganda (Uganda) The Rt Revd Henry Katumba-Tamale (Diocesan Bishop) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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