

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



April 13, 2017

Mirrors

*But if we judged ourselves truly,
we would not be judged.
I Corinthians 10:30*

Mirrors

Tonight we go to Maundy Thursday services. For some of us it will be a more elaborate liturgy with foot washing and the stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday. In some parishes the emphasis will be on the Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion as one of the sacraments. The words of Paul cited above taken from the readings for Morning Prayer this morning point out something easy to miss but essential for following Jesus. Paul places it in the middle of coming to the Lord's Table for communion. It applies in all areas of our lives. The challenge is this: Do you know how other people experience you? It is easy to read this vers and resolve to do a better job of being a nicer person. That is a great first step, but there is more to it than that. Since Paul puts this in the middle of going to communion it immediately and directly means that we cannot judge or rule over ourselves adequately without close realtionships with other people. We need others to be able to grow into the full stature of Christ. We will not know how we come across and how we are growing into His likeness without other people giving us at least a clue as to how we are coming across. The people we go to the Table with are good mirrors for us. What we have to do is be attentive.

How To Look In The Mirror

The best way to "look in the mirror" to see how other people experience us is to listen. Listen to God, to other people, to the context and world around us. What we are doing right now directly affects the quality of our relationships, the flow of our lives, and the fruit we bear. Asking God to show us how we come across as well how we contribute to the lives of others and the work we share will provide us the power of the Spirit to do the often uncomfortable work of judging ourselves. It is important to keep in mind, however, that judging ourselves is not only realizing and confessing our sins. It is also to becoming aware of what pleases God and builds up others. Asking for the power of the spirit to keep that up and let it increase in our lives is also a way of "looking in the mirror." All of this, positive and negative, is how we grow into the full stature of Christ.

Coming Attractions

Thursday, April 13, 2017 Maundy Thursday liturgy at 6:15pm

Friday, April 14, 2017 Good Friday liturgy at 6:15pm

Sunday, April 16, 2017 Easter service at 10:00am

Please bring memorable food to someone to be distributed to the

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Food Lion that business would increase and many families in our community would be well served.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Grace Church, Alexandria, and Holy Comforter, Richmond that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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