Independence Day

The Third Sunday after Trinity
July 2, 2017

FATHER POTHIN’S REFLECTION

Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still
Happy July 4th

I was at a community event Thursday night, and the host was Frank. He is a veteran; came back from the World War II wounded and disabled. He has carried the price tag of freedom in his own body ever since. He, like so many, purchased and preserved our freedom at great cost. It is a cost they can never forget because they bear on their bodies and their minds the horrors of war. But Frank at least came back. Tens of thousands of others never came back from the many wars our country has fought.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let’s remember the cost that has been paid to purchase freedom — not just for a nation, but for all people!

There was a war for the entire human race in which freedom for all people was purchased. This freedom was purchased at great cost as well. The symbol of that cost is not a hillside of white crosses or the Tomb of the Unknown or a black wall of names. As precious as these symbols are to those who know them and the people they represent, they do not compare to the symbol of the Empty Tomb. This symbol transcends ethnic and national boundaries. The Empty Tomb is the symbol of the cost of true freedom for all people — the cost of Jesus leaving the security and power of heaven and becoming earthbound and mortal (Philippians 2:5-11).

For us Christians, Independence Day doesn’t come once a year. No, for Jesus’ followers, Independence Day comes every Sunday! The early Christians met on the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10), Sunday, to take of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7). This was their Independence Day. By the end of the first century, Sunday had become the Lord’s Day. On this day they remembered the Lord’s death and anticipated his return because freedom from death had been won. Independence Day is the day of the Empty Tomb! So as each Sunday approaches, let’s remember the cost of our freedom and give thanks and sing aloud!

Morning Prayer – see printout in the pews.

The Mass

You can follow the entire Mass in the spiral-bound Missalette (in the pews), pages 6-23, except the readings and the hymns. Below are listed page numbers for the readings in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the numbers of the hymns and liturgical music in the hymnal. For those who prefer to use the BCP, the liturgy for the Mass starts on page 67.

Procesional hymn (National Hymn) Hymn 143
The Decalogue and Responses Hymn 701, or Missalette, p. 24
Gloria in excelsis (old Scottish chant) Hymn 739, or BCP p. 84
The Collect BCP, p. 263
The Epistle BCP, p. 263
The Holy Gospel BCP, p. 264

THE HOMILY

Offertory Hymn (St. Catherine) Hymn 393
Doxology Hymn 139 or Missalette p. 10
Sanctus/Benedictus qui venit Hymn 797 or Missalette p. 16
Agnus Dei Hymn 706 or Missalette p. 20

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion hymn (Adoro Devote) Hymn 204, v. 1 & 2
Recessional hymn (America) Hymn 141

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. Michael the Archangel Anglican Catholic Church. Please join us after the service for refreshments and fellowship.

The Wednesday service continues at 11 am.
St. Michael The Archangel
Anglican Church
Frederick, Maryland
A Parish of the Anglican Catholic Church
Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States

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We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. (Declaration of Independence)