



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

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THE ORDINATION OF MATT WHITEHEAD

The Whitehead family is well-known and beloved at St. Luke's: we see Matt serving

as a member of the altar party at our regular Sunday Masses, while Kate manages the couple's six children, who always cue up individually to put their coins in the collection plate.

When Matt Whitehead is ordained a Catholic priest on May 31st, it will be the culmination of a moving story: from Baptist to Catholic priest. Whitehead will be ordained by the Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes, bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, Texas. [Our Lady of Walsingham is the principal church of the U.S. Ordinariate.] Growing up in a devout Baptist family in Cary, North Carolina, the son of a Baptist deacon, Matt (as we can call him until he is ordained) was quite young when he sensed a vocation. "At a very early age," said Matt, "I felt that I wanted to serve God and also that I wanted to serve our country."

After graduating from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, Matt went to Dallas Theological Seminary to prepare to become a military chaplain. While there, he began to think about Anglicanism. Anglicanism, Matt said, "kind of sets you on your way to the idea of sacraments, a hierarchical clergy, and apostolic succession. I became an Anglican because I was trying to connect to the ancient Church." Whitehead was ordained a priest of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Matt was rector of St. Chrysostom's Reformed Episcopal Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, when in 2009 then-Pope Benedict XVI issued the apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, which called for the maintenance of elements of the Anglican patrimony within the Catholic Church. It also provided for married former Anglican and Episcopal clergymen under certain conditions to be ordained to the Catholic priesthood. "I thought it was nice but not for me, at least at the time," recalls Matt. Nevertheless, Matt and his wife Kate couldn't seem to stop thinking about Catholicism.

Whitehead became an Army chaplain in 2010. "Some of the tension of being a 'Sacramental Protestant' forced me to start looking and asking if I really belonged where I was. Kate and I together in prayer decided we needed to look at the Catholic Church because that is where sacramental fullness is found. It happened while I was in a combat zone and Kate was staying with my parents in North Carolina." Kate already has been received into the Church. Matt will be received and ordained at the same time.

Matt's parents will travel to Houston to witness their son's ordination to the Catholic priesthood. "What they have seen is the character of Christ in my ministry and that has helped them get over the 'Oh, my gosh, they are becoming Catholics' frame of mind," says Matt. Matt will go into retreat at St. Anselm's Abbey here in

Washington before being ordained. He will emerge from retreat on May 5 to join St. Luke's parishioners at our last Evensong at the Abbey until the fall. Come to Evensong; it will be a great time to congratulate Matt on his coming ordination—while we can still call him Matt.

#THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

In the past two months, St. Luke's has started to incrementally implement a social media campaign to raise our profile in DC and in the national Catholic

consciousness. If the apostolate of the Ordinariate is to promote the visible unity of the Body of Christ in His Church, it can only be effective if we become a visible prophetic sign of that unity.

To increase our visibility, St. Luke's is evangelizing with the beauty which is an intrinsic part of our charism. On Instagram

[\[st.lukes.ordinariate.dc\]](https://www.instagram.com/st.lukes.ordinariate.dc),

we are posting photographs and paintings which depict our liturgy and teach through Scripture, saints' stories, and information on Church doctrines. On Facebook

[\[StLukesOrdinariate\]](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesOrdinariate), we are posting music from our Masses and Evensongs, including the chanting of minor propers, canticles, and psalms, the settings of Mass Ordinaries, and a selection of seasonally-apt motets and anthems. In the coming weeks we will

be rejuvenating our Twitter account

[\[@StLukesDC\]](https://twitter.com/@StLukesDC), notifying followers of events and posting links to our videos on Youtube [\[StLukes Ordinariate\]](https://www.youtube.com/StLukesOrdinariate).

But we need your help. Social media work in a viral manner. The more followers you have, the easier it is for people to find you. So help boost our signal. If you are on Facebook, [like and follow](#) our page. If you have an Instagram account, [add us](#) to your feed. If you use Twitter, [follow us](#) and retweet us.



CORRECTION

In the March 2018 edition of the Epistle, in the cover article on the diaconal ordination we printed:

We wish to thank Karen Hoppe, a long-time friend of St. Luke's, for the gorgeous vestments worn by the bishop, deacon, and sub-deacon, which came from Watts & Company, London. The service booklet noted: "The red vestments used in tonight's Mass in honor of St. Peter the Apostle are the gift of Karen Hoppe, given in thanksgiving for the promulgation of *Anglicanorum coetibus*."

The gift of the vestments was made by both Dave and Karen Hoppe in thanksgiving for the promulgation of *Anglicanorum coetibus*. We regret the omission and thank the Hoppes again for their generous gift.

STORMING HEAVEN FOR GUIDANCE

As Pentecost approaches, we remember the history of the novena, the ancient Christian tradition of devotional praying, consisting of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks. The origin of the novena is tied to the event which occurred in the Upper Room with Twelve Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary when they prayed for nine days until the Holy Spirit descended on the Feast of the Pentecost. Thus, among the many novenas for various intentions and asking the intervention of various saints, the pre-eminent novena is one directed to invoking the aid of the Holy Ghost.

Thus, as St. Luke's begins to explore the options for a permanent home of our own in the DC metro area, we are asking you to join us in a *Novena to the Holy Ghost For Guidance Concerning Our Parish Home*.

We will begin the novena at the end of Mass on Ascension Thursday. Then daily emails will go out to our parishioners with the novena prayers from Friday May 11th to Saturday May 19th. On Whitsunday [the Feast of the Pentecost], we will offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Holy Ghost for His aid.

We would like to ask all the Friends of St. Luke's to join us in this novena. To receive our daily emails for this prayer chain, please [drop us a line](#) and say Opt Me In! Help us storm Heaven as we step out in confidence to build our future.

Novena to the Holy Ghost

For Guidance Concerning Our Parish Home

The Psalm

Psalm 132: 3-5, 7-9, 14-15 *Memento, Domine*

I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house, * nor climb up into my bed;

I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eyelids to slumber; * neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord; * an habitation for the Mighty God of Jacob.

We will go into his tabernacle, * and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place; * thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; * and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

1For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself; * he hath longed for her.

This shall be my rest for ever: * here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

The Collect

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life to the Church, grant us wisdom and understanding, enlightening our minds to perceive the path to which you call your people. Give us right judgment and courage, guiding us as we step out boldly into the future you have planned for us. Send us knowledge and reverence, helping us to see the lasting value of the gifts you have bestowed on this parish family. Spirit of the Living God, ignite our hearts with faith, hope, and love. Do a new thing with us and make us docile under your direction. Come, Holy Ghost, and renew the face of the earth. Amen.

To be prayed daily May 11th to May 19th.



MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

What a wonderful Eastertide we have been celebrating. The music, the readings, and the smiles on everyone's faces as they receive Our Risen Lord in the Eucharist. It is a pleasure to serve you, and witness your joy.

As we move from Eastertide into Whitsuntide, now is the opportunity to expand our ministries and our in-reach/outreach.

Father Vidal and I have talked and decided that we need to start an "in-reach" committee. This group will visit our brothers and sisters who are unable

to come on Sunday, due to illness, lack of transportation, or any other reasons. This will mean visiting them in their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes. It is important that we don't forget these children of God. Don't worry, it is not scary, nor burdensome. Remember Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

I have tried to ask for help by writing about it and saying something from the Ambo. But, now I am going to get a bit more aggressive. I will be talking to each of you right after Mass and in Coffee Hour, to get a commitment of at least one visit from you. I will provide all the training and resources you will need to make these visits.

For our Outreach, we will continue our monthly Corporal Acts of Mercy, led by Charlotte Hays. She has done an outstanding job in finding various needs throughout the DC Metro area. Please support Charlotte in this vital ministry by donating the requested goods needed by those less fortunate than ourselves.

As time goes on, we will be looking at other opportunities for service outside the parish.

I wish a most happy and blessed month to all mothers of our parish, in every capacity (mother, grandmother, god-mother, mother-in-law, etc.). Each of you hold someone within your heart. Look to our Blessed Mother for strength and guidance, as well as to the Patron of Mothers, St. Monica.

Oremus Pro Invicem

Deacon Mark

DEACON'S DESK



LAST MONTH I detailed the specific role of the deacon within our liturgical form, in our case his role in Solemn Mass. I mentioned that deacons are ordained into a role of service to the people of God in word, sacrament, and charity. This month I will explain in further detail what these specific roles of service mean.

As stated on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops website, deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign that Christ came to serve and not be served. In the person of a deacon, the Church sees the following roles:

Service in Word – The deacon proclaims the Gospel, preaches, and teaches in the name of the Church. The deacon’s proclamation of the Gospel is a very visible sign of his service to the people, as is his occasional preaching of homilies. The deacon also has a core role within the parish for Catholic education, be it to children seeking First Communion or Confirmation, adults seeking Confirmation into the Catholic Church, or persons of all ages receiving Sunday education .

Service in Sacrament – The deacon baptizes, leads the faithful in public prayer, witnesses marriages, and conducts wakes and funeral services not including Mass.

Service in Charity – The deacon leads groups of parishioners executing any number of charitable apostolates, ranging from food distribution programs to benefit the needy, to guiding Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in their distribution of the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and elderly, to rallying the faithful to fight the scourge of abortion at marches and in front of abortion clinics and at other venues.

Deacons perform a unique and distinct ordained ministry of service to the parish in word, Sacrament, and charity under the direction of their bishop and their priest. In the words of St. Polycarp in his letter the Philippians, “Let them be merciful, and zealous, and let them walk according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all.”

Next month, as my Patrology class ends and my Summer “The Gospels” class begins, I hope to begin a series of instruction on the Fathers of the Church and their indelible impact on the life and survival of the early Catholic Church.

Until then may God bless you,

Randy

Randy King entered the process of formation to become a permanent deacon in 2016; it is expected that he will be ordained in 2021.



Never Deny, Seldom Affirm, Always Distinguish —St. Thomas Aquinas

LAST EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY FOR THE SEASON



Evensong at the Abbey has increased in popularity over the course of the last year or so, and we hope to have an especially large turnout **this Saturday, May 5**. That will be our last Evensong at St. Anselm's Abbey until we resume in the fall. Evensong provides us a wonderful opportunity to worship the Lord in the beautiful and distinctive language of our Anglican patrimony. The chanting is always sublime. We also have a chance to build our parish community, and

visit with several monks at St. Anselm's Abbey, who are especially supportive of the Ordinariate, at our informal wine and cheese reception afterwards. If you can, bring a goody to be shared at the reception. The service begins at 4 pm. The Abbey's address is 4501 South Dakota Ave NE, Washington DC.

ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS: MAY 10 AT 6:30 PM



Most Catholic dioceses in the US celebrate the Feast of the Ascension on May 13 this year, transferring it to the closest Sunday. In the Ordinariate, we celebrate the ancient solemnity on its original day, Ascension Thursday, which this year falls on May 10. We will have our usual 8:30 am mass plus an evening Mass at 6:30 pm to commemorate Our Lord's bodily Ascension into Heaven, forty days after the Resurrection.

The observance of this feast is of great antiquity. Eusebius seems to hint at the celebration of it in the 4th century. At the beginning of the 5th century, St. Augustine said that it is of Apostolic origin, and he spoke of it in a way that indicated that it was the universal observance of the Church long before his time.

Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Ordinariate. Thus you must attend Mass that day. If you can't make it to one of our parish Ascension Masses, a regular Mass at any Catholic Church fulfills the obligation.

CORPORAL ACT OF MERCY FOR MAY: BABY FORMULA

May is month of Mary. During this month, we honor the Blessed Virgin with special devotions, pilgrimages, prayers, and small sacrifices in her honor. What could be a better way to honor Christ's Mother than by donating baby formula to help a young mother in need? "We always have need for baby formula," said Maria Meli, Director of the Northwest Center's Maternity Home. If you can contribute, Meli said that they are in need of Similac, Similac Advance, and Similac Sensitive.



The Northwest Center was founded in 1981 by students and alumni of Georgetown University. Its stated mission is "to support pregnant or parenting women in need, to act on our belief in the intrinsic value and dignity of all human life, and to provide for new beginnings for pregnant or parenting women." In providing services, Meli says that the Center follows Catholic social teaching and has "a life-affirming philosophy." Please consider helping a mother in need during Mary's month. Bring your baby formula to Mass or coffee hour.



Saturday, May 5th: Evening Prayer at the Abbey, 4 pm

Thursday, May 10th: The Ascension of Our Lord, a holyday of obligation, Masses at 8:30 am and 6: 30 pm

Ascension Thursday to Whitsunday: Novena to the Holy Ghost For Guidance Concerning Our Parish Home

Sunday May 20th: Whitsunday [The Feast of the Pentecost] and the Farewell Mass for Fr. Rick Kramer

Tuesday, May 28th: Diaconal Ordination of Matt Whitehead at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, Texas, at noon local.

Thursday, May 31st: Priestly Ordination of Matt Whitehead at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, Texas, at 7:30 pm local.



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St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, which was established on January 1, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in response to repeated requests by Anglicans seeking to become Catholic. Ordinariate parishes are fully Catholic while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage and traditions, including liturgical traditions.

**THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE
OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER**

That we all may be one

FROM THE PASTOR

There is a lot going on at St. Luke's this month with three events that are worth mentioning, two joyful and the other bittersweet.

On the 6th of May we will celebrate the betrothal of Franco Madan and Carolyn Hansen. I was excited when Franco and Carolyn proposed a betrothal service since I had heard of the rite but never actually heard of somebody getting betrothed, at least in my time as a priest.

Betrothal is an ancient custom which you may have heard of since the Blessed Virgin Mary was betrothed to St. Joseph.

While no longer part of canon law, a betrothal is a binding agreement made between a man and a woman, usually witnessed by a priest and two other people, that contractually obligates them to be married on a specific date. It is a promise before God that once made could only be dissolved by a priest under some very specific rules.

The ceremony serves to highlight the importance and solemnity of the couple's engagement and puts it in the context of the gravity of marriage, not merely a nice declaration of love with a "let's do this sometime!"

In light of the Admonition found in the rite of the celebration of Holy Matrimony from the Divine Worship - Occasional Services, a betrothal sets the tone of preparation for "an honourable estate" which "is not to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained," instead of a preparation where time and energy are primarily spent on wedding (and honeymoon trip) planning.

The second joyful thing that will be happening is the Ordination to the Priesthood of our brother Matt Whitehead on May 31. Matt's journey has been a long one and we celebrate with him such a great honor and privilege that it is to administer our Lord's Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. While technically not his first Mass, which will take place out in the fields of Kansas in his role as an Army chaplain, our Sunday Solemn High Mass on June 10 will have Matt as its celebrant. I invite all of us to pray for Matt and to make sure you are here on that Sunday. Alas, while Matt has received orders to extend his duty in Northern Virginia, we will lose him as he will immediately assume responsibilities as the Catholic Army Chaplain at Arlington Cemetery.

Finally, on the Feast of Pentecost, Fr. Rick Kramer will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass here at St. Luke's on what will be his last Sunday with us. Fr. Kramer will be moving to Houston where he will be working for the Ordinariate's chancery. Fr. Kramer, we will miss you!

Fr. John