

# The Arimathean

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## Getting Down to Basics

Earlier this summer the Babalola family came to me after a service and asked to have their child Sade baptized, a request that is a routine part of church life. I spent some time with the parents and it was clear the they had a very good understanding of the meaning and significance of baptism and were well prepared to raise their child as a Christian. A date was chosen when her extended family could be present. Everything was falling into place for what would prove to be a most joyful celebration.

There was one challenge though, a challenge I've faced only a few times even though I've baptized many, many people. How do you prepare a someone who is 13 months old for baptism? When I prepare an adult or older teen for baptism the process is much like preparing a person for confirmation. For a child between the ages of 3 and the early teens I use age appropriate conversation, books and other materials to explain baptism, communion and the Christian faith. When a small infant comes it's all a matter of making sure that the parents and godparents understand their responsibilities in bringing up the child as a faithful Christian. The infant may be aware of being held by a stranger and may or may not cry at having water poured on his or her head but that's about it.

A child of one or two is different. A child of this age knows about friends and strangers, familiar places and activities and those that are unfamiliar or frightening. A child this age is full of feelings; safe, happy, curious, shy, unhappy, afraid. A child this age has some words but not enough language for explanations to be of much use. How do you prepare such a child for baptism? What are the absolute basics? For the baptism itself all that is absolutely required is water and the it be administered in the name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As for what I hope that the child understands; I want the child to feel that the church is a safe and familiar place, a happy place. I want the child to feel comfortable around me and around others at the church. I want to make the baptism itself as positive an experience as possible for the child and I want to help the child's family lay down a good foundation for the child's continuing growth as a person of faith. I want to begin by



(Continued on page 3)

## What's Happening in Sunday School?



As the new school year begins, the Sunday School teachers are looking forward to introducing a new curriculum, Spark: Activate Faith! With Spark, kids will open their Bibles each week and engage in Scripture! We will all watch them grow in their faith by encountering God's Word while participating in activities that rein-

force the Bible stories. The lessons are designed to engage every child in active learning with age-appropriate lessons. Our one room classroom will be divided into two; grades 3 and up will meet on one side while pre-K through Grade 2 will meet on the other. Both classes will discuss the same lectionary material the congregation is listening to in church that week. Just think about the possibilities for conversation during coffee hour after church or across the dinner table.

An additional component of the Spark materials are the excellent leader materials. Not only do the publishers provide a comprehensive leader guide for each level, but they also have short lesson preparation videos. In just 5 minutes, the video introduces the bible story, gives ideas for leading the kids and specific tips for the activities.

September 13th we will start our journey through the Book of Mark. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Catherine Gmoser &  
Richard Wisniewski

***Sunday,  
September 6th***

Blessing of the  
Backpacks (and  
briefcases!)

## 2009 Christmas Card

St. Joseph of Arimathea is a Church with many wonderful traditions. One of these is the parish Christmas card, a different one each year featuring a drawing, painting or photograph of our beautiful church.

Do you have a picture that would make a lovely card for 2009? Would you like to create a picture for the card? Please submit pictures to Patty Young. The Coordinating Committee will be selecting the picture for this year's card later this fall.



**St. Joseph of Arimathea  
Christmas Card  
2008**

## Cover letter: Getting Down to Basics

**Monday,  
September 14 th**

Vestry Meeting  
7 pm

helping the child to experience church as something that is positive, comfortable, friendly and safe.

In this particular case Sade was already familiar with being in church, with sitting in her car seat or on her parents' laps during services, with the sounds and sights of worship, with coming to the altar to receive a blessing and most recently with toddling up and down the pew. I made sure that Sade became more familiar with me in the weeks before her baptism but the baptism itself was a different matter. For Sade it would be something new and strange. And so it was that few days before the baptism Sade's dad brought her to the church. She watched me fill the font with water and was delighted with the way the light



shimmered in the silver bowl. I swished the water around with my hand and I encouraged her to do it too. She was shy at first but the water in the shiny bowl proved irresistible. After a while I put a few drops of water on her dad's head and he put a few drops on my head then it was her turn to put some water on my head. By then she was quite happy to have me put water on her head too. When we were through at the font we spent some time sitting on the carpeted steps leading up to the altar and Sade was free to do a bit of exploring. The result of all of this was that Sade was able to relax at her baptism. She was curious and a bit shy but she felt safe. The font and the water were familiar and she reached out to touch it as she had done before. When I poured the water of baptism on her head she wasn't surprised or upset at all. The only thing that seemed to bother her was the hot humid weather that was bothering all of us. The church was filled with our Sunday regulars as well as Sade's extended family

and friends. The children all came up and stood in the choir stalls where they could watch the proceedings. What a joy filled day!

Sade has learned her first lessons in faith; she feels safe and comfortable at church, she is learning the sights, sounds and rituals of worship. Soon she will be learning her first Bible stories and prayers. She is being challenged with new experiences like receiving communion and meeting new people, and she is sharing her joy and laughter as well as her occasional tears with us all.

These are the basics not just for a toddler like Sade but for all of us. Jesus loves each and every one of us and teaches us to love one another. Jesus is our teacher, friend, comforter and helper as well as the one who challenges us and calls us to account; all of us, no matter how old or young. It is my hope that everyone who worships at St. Joe's, be

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## A Second Look

Are you a regular customer of The Hearty Helpings Meat Buying Cooperative that St. Joseph hosts? Our own Joan Cameron is the Chair of this project – and if you haven't participated, you just might want to give it a second look.

This is a marvelous program for many reasons. We can all use a little extra help saving money, especially now. The meats/seafood arrive frozen so you can use them at your convenience. I've got to tell you, this resource has turned out to be much more than I could have personally hoped for. It has fed my family more than a few times, when I simple did not have time or energy to get to the

grocery store, or simply forgotten to pick something up at the store! Come on, I know more than one of you have done that right??

Most of all, it has made me plan our families meals, this saves me time and money. It provides a variety to our meals. How many times do you find yourself due to habit or regular routine – picking up the same old chicken or ground beef – every week? Now I know I can get seafood into our diet, or maybe I would not have necessarily bought scallops without more planning – and now I can just pop them in a skillet and serve much more than a pasta dish.

What makes it especially nice, is

there is no contracts to sign – you do not have to buy each and every month, YOU decided if you want a Combo box AND Specials, or just one or the other – so there is more flexibility in this plan than many of the other Cooperatives I've seen.

You could also consider having a buddy system approach – maybe you simply cannot use ALL that is in the Combo box, perhaps you can share it – that's a win-win situation. So please give this program a second look.

For any other question, please give Joan a call (her number is listed in the Directory) or the office during church office hours.

~ Patty Young

## Getting Down to Basics, cont.

they a first time visitor or a life-long member feels the same things that I hope Sade feels. We should all find this a place where we feel safe, comfortable, included and respected. We should feel free to share our tears as well as our

joys. We should know the comfort of the familiar as well as the challenge new experiences and ideas. We should be treated gently so that we are not overwhelmed. We should be able to experience the love of Jesus right here

among us and we should be empowered to share that love where ever we go.

It's a tall order but with Jesus' help we can do it!

~ Pastor Claire

**Monday, Sept. 7th**

*Church Office Closed*

## How to Tell if You Talk to Much and What to Do if You Do!



**Monday, Sept 14th  
& 28th**

*Coordinating  
Committee  
6:00 pm*

1. Fix the problem: You've decided you DO talk too much and want to do something about it, here are some suggestions of how to do this;

2. Slow down: Sometimes people simply get excited and begin an overwhelming monologue. They're so into what they have to say, they forget that you need TWO people to hold a conversation. This is selfish. Sometimes all it takes is a quick mental note to calm down. Take a deep breath and collect yourself before breaking your oh-so-amazing news to your friends. In essence, **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**. Truthfully, your special story will have more impact if you take time to think about what you're going to say and how you're going to say it.

3. For goodness's sake, stop interrupting people: I apologize, this is a pet peeve of mine. Interrupting people is an insipid, self-centered and widely excused habit of the majority of the worlds

population. People have been desensitized to this egotistical way of carrying on a conversation. Its now commonplace to find oneself rudely and callously cut off from finishing your sentences, only to find one's fellow converser interjecting with their own personal stories, thoughts, or commentaries. A practice which basically states "I don't find you interesting enough, and so I'm just going to say what I want to say." This is a simple, awful way to disregard the most basic rule of human interaction: respect.

So the next time you are in a conversation, no matter what it is about. I beseech you to LISTEN. I mean, REALLY listen. Personal in put is a wonderful way to express oneself, but never at the expense of the other person's feelings. So go for it, this is a wonderful way to gain the revered honor of

becoming a "good listener".

Tips: Breaking yourself of bad habits or poor manners takes time. Don't get discouraged. It's wise to ask a close friend for support. It can't hurt to have a coach.

Warnings: Please, please, don't stop talking! Talking is a beautiful form of interaction, and a good marking of a "social butterfly". But remember, everyone wants their turn in a conversation. It's time to go back to that long forgotten pre-school lesson of sharing.

## A MUST Read!

For any one who carries a handbag, backpack, pouch, or even a briefcase.

Its something that just about every woman carries with



them. Every kid that hauls a backpack to and from school, and now men even have bags to carry blackberries, phones, and mp3 players.

While we know what's inside our handbags, do you have any idea what's on the outside?

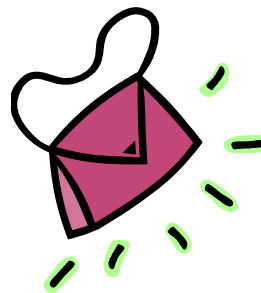
A test was done at the Nelson Laboratories in Salt Lake City, Utah. Most women told us they didn't stop to think about what was on the bottom of their handbags. At home they usually set their handbags on top of the kitchen tables and counters where food is prepared. Many of the ladies said they wouldn't be surprised if their handbags were at least a little dirty.

It turns out handbags are so surprisingly dirty,

even the microbiologist who tested them were shocked.

Microbiologist Amy Karen of Nelson Labs says nearly all of the handbags tested were not only high in bacteria, but high in harmful kinds of bacteria. Pseudomonas can cause eye infections, staphylococcus aureus can cause serious skin infections and salmonella and e-coli found on the bags could make people very sick.

The handbags of one single woman who frequented nightclubs had one of the worst contaminations of all. Some with fecal contamination and vomit.



So, the moral of the story is that your handbag won't kill you, but it does have the potential to make you very sick if



you keep in on places where you eat. Use hooks to hang your handbags at home and in public restrooms, and don't put it on your desk, a restaurant table or your kitchen countertops.

Experts say you should think of your handbag and backpacks as you would a pair of shoes. Would you put a pair of shoes on your countertops? Your handbag has gone where individuals before you have walked, sat, sneezed, coughed, spat, urinated, emptied bowels etc. Wash cloth handbags and use leather cleaner to clean the bottom of leather bags or at the very least a disinfectant wipe or simply soap and water.

Thank you Jennifer Larrow – for sharing this information! I'm going home to wash

**Sunday, Sept. 20th**

*Valhalla Residence  
Dinner*

## Altar Flowers

### Altar Flowers

September Altar flowers are given by:

- Sept. 6 Anne and Bunkie Harmon in celebration of the birthday of their son Jamie
- Sept. 13 Dr. Joseph Rogers in loving memory of Sally Doonen Rodgers
- Sept. 20 All Gerosa in loving memory of Martha Gerosa
- Sept. 27 Richard Wisniewski and Eliza Jensen in loving memory of Boguslaw Wisniewski



With love and heartfelt thanks.

## Bereavement Support Groups

Do you are someone you know need help learning to cope with the loss of a loved one? Beginning on Tuesdays, September 22, 2009 from 2:00 – 3:30pm at Phelps memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow, there will be an eight week day group

on Spousal Loss Support.

There is also an eight week evening group of General Bereavement Support for Adults, beginning on Thursdays, October 8, 2009 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Suggested donation is \$75 for eight

weeks.

All groups are led by Phelps Hospice staff professionals. Pre-Registration is required. Please call Bess Steiger (914) 366-3325 Phelps Hospice 701 N. Broadway Sleepy Hollow NY 10591

## Save the Dates!

Monday, Sept. 7th Labor Day – Church Office Closed

Vestry Meeting: Sept. 14th 7pm

Coordinating Committee Meetings: Sept. 14th, 28th 6pm

Women’s Workshop Begins Tuesdays, Sept. 15th, 22nd, 29th at 10am

Sandwich Brigade on Wednesdays, Sept. 23rd, 30th

Sunday School Kick Off! September 13th

Kick Off Luncheon! September 20th

Valhalla Residence Dinner –volunteers needed! Sept. 20th



## Culinary Corner

I am so excited that I found this recipe! I have always loved Fried Ice Cream! Have you ever tried it? Perhaps at a Mexican restaurant, but also at Japanese restaurants like Ichi Richi in Elmsford. Each have their own particular flavor, the Mexican ice cream can have alcohol poured onto it before serving, and the Japanese version is very plain and simple, served with a sprig of mint and a maraschino cherry.

This is one of the easiest versions I've seen. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Cook time: 10 minutes

Level: Easy

Yield: 8-10 servings

Ingredients:

½ to 1 gallon vanilla ice cream

4 egg whites

4 cups crushed cubed cereal (Golden Graham works great!)

Vegetable oil for frying

Cinnamon, honey, whipped cream, chocolate sauce optional garnish



Directions:

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking sheet. Scoop the ice cream into 2 inch balls and freeze on prepared baking sheet for at least two hours.

Lightly beat the egg whites in a medium bowl. Put the crushed cereal in a separate medium bowl. Dip a frozen ice cream ball into the egg whites and then roll in the crushed cereal and return to the baking sheet. Repeat the procedure with the remaining ice cream balls, egg whites and cereal. Put the baking sheet into the freezer and freeze for at least two hours or overnight.

Cook's Note: For extra crispiness, dip the coated ice cream balls again in the egg whites and reroll into the crushed cereal.

In a large Dutch oven or fryer, pour vegetable oil to a depth of 4 inches and heat to 375 degrees F.

Fry the ice cream balls in batches if necessary, until golden – about 1 minute. Remove from the oil and drain on paper towels. Transfer to a serving platter and serve immediately with optional garnishes if desired.

"I" love to drizzle the ball with honey, sprinkle cinnamon and a dollop of whipped cream – yum!

**Monday, Sept. 14th**

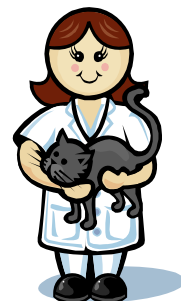
*Vestry Meeting  
7:00 pm*

## Blessing of the Animals—October 4th

Sunday October 4 at the 10:30 service. All reasonably well behaved animals will be welcome in church so long as they are on a leash, in a cage or carrier. Blessings

will also be available for animals that are not able to attend, be they your pets at home or animals in the wild, at the zoo or farm or wherever.

Beloved stuffed animals are welcome too!



### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land In Eastertide

The Diocese of New York is planning a trip to Jerusalem from April 6-18, 2010! For more information, please contact:

Deborah Dresser at 845-561-2555 or [deborahdresser@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdresser@gmail.com)

A brochure will be posted on the bulletin board.



### Prayer List

**Lillian Malloy**- John Schieb's sister, **Cynthia Billings**, **Oliver Simco**- Patty Young's friend, **Jamie** - Carol Rohl's friend, **Brenda Letford** - Billie-Ann's friend, **Lloyd**- Louis Grant's father, **Sydney White** - Charles White's brother, and his niece **Sheila White**, The **White** family, **Rick Merrill**- classmate of Camele White, **Alexander Borzova** - Alla Borzova's father, **John Scheib**, The **Barnaby** family - especially **Zach**, **Jamal Benomar**, **Arianna Fujimoto Harris**, The **Udogwu** family, **Nancy Platt**, **Rolo Miller**, **Pastor Addie**, **Debbie Gillette-Hermansen**, **Jane Dunne & Carol Vanecek** - Mary-Carol's friends, **Elizabeth Graves**- Jennifer Larrow's friend, **Grace Anderson-Smith** -Althea Serrant's daughter, **Dottie Cunningham** - Barbara Brown's friend, **The Carpenter's Kids** in Mbabala, Tanzania



### Those Who Have Passed

Donna Rosengren's mother **Dorothy Scrivano**. **Ruth Spaulding** from the Women's Workshop. **Maggie Jensen**, **Carol Carroll**, **Carl Gmoser**, **Gordon Hecht** and **David Cooper**

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

2172 Saw Mill River Road  
White Plains, New York 10607

(September 2009)

The only way of finding the limits  
of the possible is by going  
beyond *them into the impossible*  
~Arthur C. Clarke

The Reverend Claire Lofgren, Interim Pastor  
Rick Ewen, Sr. Warden

Vestry: Ben Alexander, Joan Cameron, Catherine Gmoser, Jennifer Haus,  
Chris Larrow, Donna Rosengren, Katie Saliba, Althea Serrant, Sharon White,  
Donna Rosengren, Treasurer \* Patty Young, Clerk

*The Arimathean*, published monthly (except July/August) by St. Joseph of Arimathea Church  
Catherine Gmoser, Layout Grady Jensen, Historian

## Glad Tidings!

09/03	Howard (Bunkie) Harmon
09/04	Ramon White
09/06	Gerry Tuttle
09/07	Bianca Grant
09/11	Constance Malm
09/15	Patrick Wisniewski
09/24	Rene Lynn Patterson
09/26	Ifeoma Udogwu

