

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Standing On Your Shoulders
Date: November 2, 2016 at 11:10 AM
To: Mcats2@aol.com

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The logo for St. Francis features a large white 'S' on the left. A red cross is superimposed over the 'S', with a sunburst pattern radiating from its top. To the right of the 'S' is the word 'Francis' in a white, serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

St Francis



November 2, 2016

On Your Shoulders

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
I Corinthians 15:58

The Feast of All Souls

Today is the Feast of All Souls. The verse cited above is from the New Testament reading for today. All Souls is particularly set aside to remember the lives of all faithful Christians who have gone before us. The photo is of All Souls, Langham Place in London, England. It is one of the leading evangelical parishes in the Church of England, and in the Anglican communion throughout the world. It has been served by many faithful clergy, including John Stott. The name is very ironic in my mind because the Feast of All Souls tends to be a high church, Anglo-Catholic celebration more so than an evangelical one. Yet, there is a foundational element of discipleship which is squarely in the tradition of the Feast of All Souls. That element is imitation.

Imitation and Confidence

One main reason to remember those Christians who have gone before us is to imitate their lives. One of the strongest ways of becoming a fruitful disciple of Jesus is by imitating those who are themselves strong disciples of Jesus. Does the life of a great Saint of the past capture your attention? Maybe the life of a faithful relative who has recently died speaks to you of a faithful Christian life. Imitating their ways makes us stronger followers of Jesus. Such imitation brings us to a point of innovation and enriching what we have learned from them. It is how we grow in our identity, character, and competence in following Jesus. The goal is not to stop there. It is to live a life that others can imitate in such a way that they innovate, enrich, and advance in the Christian life far beyond what we were able to do.

Who is God bringing to your mind that you could imitate and so grow in your ability to follow Jesus.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 Color Me Friends at St. Francis at 6:30pm. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

Sunday, November 6, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

4:00pm Vestry Committee

6:30pm Theology On Tap at Keegan's. Contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group. Contact Susan at n1placesusan@gmail.com

Please bring non-perishable food items to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Acme Stove and Fireplace Center, Bryan Parlee, Manger. For busines to increase and the value of homes in our area to rise.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the People of St. Andrew's, Burke, All Saints-Sharon Chapel, Alexandria,A;exandria

St. John's, Columbia, Grace, Bremo Bluff that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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