

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of

St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Catholic Church

5041 Lakeshore Drive W. Fleming Island, FL 32003

(904) 290-2959

stmichaelsaccfleming@gmail.com

July 2026

The Church is a hospital, not a courtroom, a therapy center or a motivational meeting... It is important for us to understand this. Every Christian, every person, is infected with the deadly disease of sin. Whereas in a courtroom sin is judged and punished, in a therapy center ways are sought to cope with it, and in a motivation meeting it is ignored and ones "best self" is sought, in the hospital that the Church is sin is diagnosed, given medicine (or surgery) and healed. How is sin diagnosed? By Sacred Scripture. How is sin given medicine? By the Sacraments. How is sin healed? By the power of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. But in order to be healed we must be willing to hear the diagnosis, take the medicine (or undergo surgery) and allow the Physician to work healing in His time and in His way.

Hebrews 4:12, 13 tells us Scripture is the Great Physician's diagnostic instrument (see also St. James 1:22-25). In this context we could substitute the word "scalpel" for "two-edged sword" used in that passage. The Holy Spirit utilizes Scripture to show us where the parts of our life are diseased with sin so we can have them cut out and removed, and then apply the sacramental medicines needed to bring healing.

Hearing the diagnosis of our sins is humbling. We learn that we don't just "make mistakes" and "fall short." No, we sin! The wages of sin is death! Sin is deadly and it must be dealt with head on; not with judgment, therapy or motivation. It needs to be dealt with, with grace, mercy and repentance so we can be healed. The Seven Sacraments of the Church provide the medicine we need to receive the healing we need. Two in particular; Penance (with sacramental absolution) and the Eucharist bring ongoing healing to the disease of sin.

So often in Scripture when Jesus healed bodies He said "Your sins are forgiven..." The connection of physical and psychological ailments to unrepented, unconfessed and unabsolved sin has been rationalized away by "Bible-believing" Protestantism. But St. James 5:16 states *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* The Sacrament of Penance provides healing to our souls and potentially to our bodies too. When was the last time you received this sacrament? Have you ever received it?

In the early second century, St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote the Eucharist is "the medicine of immortality." Each time we receive it in the Mass we hear "The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life." When we receive the Eucharist we objectively receive the very life of Christ into our souls and bodies! Jesus tells us this in St. John 6:53-57 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me."*

Are you sick with sin (see 1 John 1:8)? Are your spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing out of balance or flat out sick? Then read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Scripture to see, know and take action upon the diagnosis it gives. And then go to the hospital of the Church to receive the medicines the Great Physician prescribes there; particularly the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. The Sacrament of Penance restores the soul to its baptismal state, enabling it to receive the fullness of life Christ gives in the Eucharist. The healing effectiveness of the Eucharist depends on the state of our soul's condition. A diseased soul is incapable of receiving the full effect of the medicine.

We are all sick with sin in some way and to some level. Some of us have been battling (and often losing) to the same sin(s) for years. If you have bought into the misnomer the Church will judge you for your sins, please reconsider! The Church is a place to find healing from and strength to overcome sin, not to judge it (St. John 8:10, 11). If you have not considered the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist as the means Jesus provides to heal us of those sins, then I pray you will consider it too.

Ignoring the diagnosis and refusing the medicine Jesus provides is deadly to our soul. —Fr. Beutell

The Vestry met on June 28...Treasurer Todd Allerton reported that through May 2026 tithes are higher than anticipated for the year. The general expenses are at their expected levels with the increase in property insurance for the Lagdon-White House (which Ameris Bank is requiring), the salary increase for Fr. Beutell and the purchase of the new Prayer Books as exceptions as they were not in the original budget. We continue to pay an additional \$3,000.00 per month on the mortgage of the Lagdon-White House. If we are able to continue to pay this extra amount we will pay the note off in July 2027!

Funeral Committee...It has been proposed that we form a funeral committee to assure we are prepared to mobilize and minister if a parish member passes away and requests a funeral service (Requiem Mass or Prayer Book Burial Office) in the church. We will need people to assist parking cars, ushers to direct family and for the service, hospitality for serving refreshments or food after the service, etc. Please speak to Laurie McDonagh or Fr. Beutell for more information or to volunteer.

Prayer Book Memorials...We have purchased 64 new, pew edition, 1928 Prayer Books. If you would like to contribute to this purchase as a memorial you may do so at \$25.00 per book. Labels will be made and the name(s) being memorialized will be written on the labels and placed inside the front cover of the books. If you would like to contribute, please state the number of books you are contributing towards and provide the name(s) of those you would like memorialized. *Please also send an email to Fr. Beutell or Todd Allerton (smaatreasurer@gmail.com) to verify the names of the persons being memorialized.* Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign... to support the First Coast Women's Services. Twenty-one bottles were taken and returned with a donation!

Caution when kneeling at the Communion rail...Please be aware the gate at the center of the Communion rail "gives" when leaned against. The Vestry has discussed ways to make it more secure but none seem viable at this time. If you kneel down at the gate of the rail, please use caution when kneeling down and standing back up. Thank you.

Sunday Ushers wanted (needed)...We currently have four men who are very faithful in serving as ushers for Sunday Mass. That said we could use at least two additional men to serve as ushers to serve on fifth Sunday's, vacations and days when the scheduled usher is ill. Please consider serving the parish in this capacity. If you have any questions, please see Alan DiMaio-Leach or Fr. Beutell. Thank you.

The Society of Mary...will meet on Saturday, July 11 at 10:30 a.m. On that day we will celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elisabeth (St. Luke 1:39-56). Meetings consist of Mass, the praying of the Rosary and bring your own lunch. If you would like information on the SOM, please see Sue Krall or Fr. Beutell.

Summer weekday schedule...Through the summer we will continue to have weekly Wednesday mass at 10:30 a.m. Through August 12 we will have Table Talk after the Mass from 11:30 until 12:15 p.m. Table talks are single issue discussions on matters of the faith and its practice. They're also a good time to ask questions in an informal setting. Coffee and tea provided during Table Talk. The 2026-27 Wednesday study will be on Hebrews. We will start that study on September 9.

Anthony Lane Daniels...has been catechized and prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. He will be conditionally baptized and received into parish membership on Sunday, July 5 (Trinity 5). On Sunday, July 19 (Trinity 7) he will be confirmed by Archbishop Haverland at All Saints Anglican Catholic Church in Macon, GA. Anthony has enlisted in the US Army and will be leaving for boot camp on August 26.