

The Lectionary Group

I started teaching a lectionary group at Saint Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, Georgia, in August 2015. This class continued uninterrupted until the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to begin sheltering in place in March 2020. Then the Zoom version of the class commenced in May 2020 and terminated in September 2022, when the in-person class resumed in my immediate former parish.

I, having moved to Americus in October 2021, began to teach the lectionary class in January 2022.

I take this responsibility seriously. I do my homework. The process of consulting commentaries, writing notes in longhand, and preparing the word-processed notes proves to be spiritually and intellectually rewarding. (Given my Thomism, the spiritual and the intellectual categories overlap.) I affirm the necessity of serious Bible study in both individual and communal Christian life. I also value the openness and honesty of discussion regarding the topics that arise from the canon of scripture.

The low attendance at the class disturbs me. If four or five of us attend, we have a relatively large group. The parish profile of Calvary Episcopal Church from 2018 indicates regular attendance of ten to fifteen people at the adult class. I challenge the parish to match then to exceed pre-pandemic attendance at Sunday School.

Kenneth Taylor