

## TODAY'S PARISH PICNIC...

Welcome to this notable Summer event to which we always look forward...! Today's gathering underscores many special qualities that bring us together. No doubt about it, good food is a time-proven attractant...moreover, so is getting together to share time with and about one another in this remarkable setting...

The Annual Parish Picnic 2014 is special in an additional way...key word is...

## RESTORATION...

Means to bring back...to return... Today is the commencement of a process that will take place over the next several months...accordingly, the original identity of our building is being restored to SAINT JOSEPH PARISH Anglican Catholic Church...here is a look at the front page of the new website now under comprehensive development.

By early September the migration process will become increasingly and publically apparent when the website goes online. Signage and letterhead changes will occur as we accomplish the transition. During August we will start the identity transition on the Sunday Order of Service. We will, of course, utilize a dual reference to Christ Church Parish to facilitate understanding.

Indeed, a major step...thoroughly considered and supported by the Vestry in the context of escalating confusion about our parochial identity.

Vitally important is to note we remain who we are and remain from our founding...*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM* We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church, doing all things necessary for the continuance of the same. Affirmation of St Louis 1977

## RESTORATION...ABOUT ELEVATOR SERVICE...

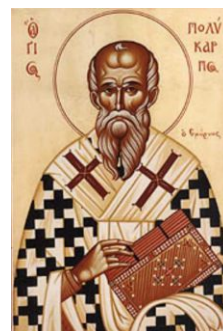
There is progress, albeit quiet and not yet visible, much has transpired which gives us confidence. Through the ceaseless efforts of Al Schick, the City of San Mateo is supportive of the solution now being pursued and appears likely to approve the requirements put upon us by the State of California. Yes, once work is completed, new red carpet will appear!

## RECTOR'S THOUGHT AND REVIEW

### TRUTH TELLING...

One of the notable negative marks of present culture is disregard for truth...the willful practice of lying or shrugging indifference toward the practice. We find ourselves often overwhelmed wondering what's true and what is not...worse yet, wondering "does it really matter."

Sensibility takes hold and we realize "of course it does"...but then wondering where to turn. Looking to the Saints of the Church is a good place to commence. A notable example...



**SAINT POLYCARP...A** Father of the Christian Church is a celebrated figure in the history of Christianity. A direct pupil of the apostle Saint John, Polycarp lived between 70 and 155 A.D., connecting him to both the biblical apostles and the age of the early church fathers. Several ancient sources document the contributions of Polycarp to Christianity, including his letters written to the church at

Philippi, in which he encourages the members to remain strong in their faith and to flee from materialism. He also instructs the members in the proper handling of financial dishonesty that was creeping into the church. Polycarp served as the bishop of the church at Smyrna (modern day Izmir), and was recognized as one of the early combatants of Christian heresies. He rejected the teachings of Marcion, an influential heretic who tried to create a "new brand" of Christianity by redefining God and rejecting Old Testament

teachings. In his well-known thesis, Polycarp combats Gnostic heresies that were beginning to spread throughout the Christian church.

**A Martyr for Truth...**Polycarp's greatest contribution to Christianity may be his martyred death. His martyrdom stands as one of the most well documented events of antiquity. The emperors of Rome had unleashed bitter attacks against the Christians during this period, and members of the early church recorded many of the persecutions and deaths. Polycarp was arrested on the charge of being a Christian -- a member of a politically dangerous cult whose rapid growth needed to be stopped. Amidst an angry mob, the Roman proconsul took pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp to proclaim, "Caesar is Lord". If only he would make this declaration and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue he would escape torture and death. To this Polycarp responded, "Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Steadfast in his stand for Jesus Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs, and thus, was burned alive at the stake.

**A Relevant Testimony for our Lives...**Polycarp's martyrdom is historical reality. He died for one reason - his unyielding faith in Jesus. Yet Polycarp's well-recorded death is only one of many lives that were given to reveal and proclaim the truth of the Gospel. In light of the cruel and torturous deaths of the first and second generation Christians, all theories that Christianity is a fabricated myth, created for the personal gain of its followers, must be rejected. Even today, many will die for a belief, but none will die for a lie. If one has any doubts about truth as revealed in the Holy Scripture, reexamine the biblical text in light of the willful deaths of nearly all of its writers, who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' life and ministry. Polycarp, like many other Christians to this day was radically transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit -- the desires, worries, pains and fears of this world no longer bound him. Polycarp's

life and death provides an inspirational example.

*Edited (in part) from: [www.polycarp.net](http://www.polycarp.net)*

### **OUTREACH...AND...INREACH...**

THINK BEYOND THE BOX...oft voiced counsel. Equally important, GO BEYOND THE BOX...both are important and we do, often in ways we may not realize. The reach and influence of the Christ Church Parish family stretches far beyond the approximately 125 souls that comprise our community. Our direct missionary contact with St George's in Juneau, while very small, reaches people far distant. In turn, their work in the community is reaching people we do not yet know. Further, the parish missionary work extends through online access...while we do not have statistics we know sermons posted on the (soon to be fully restored) parish website are read by many as we often receive comments or inquiries based on them.

Approximately 50% of pastoral care and counsel the clergy provide is extra-parochial, that is, for people most may never see or get to know...and that is OK, in fact gratifying for that is what we are called to do. Jesus was explicit: we are to Love our neighbor as ourselves and Go into all corners of the world baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost...and so we do!

And then there is the matter of reaching inward...taking care of each other, the parish family...this we do as well. All these things happen because we care...about each other and about those whom we do not yet know.

It serves us well to occasionally pause and evaluate what and how we are doing...give ourselves a report card...take a look at ourselves and how are doing. In this instance the reach is long and increasingly effective.

*Father John Altberg*

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