

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

WE ARE THE HARVEST!



The hymns associated with Thanksgiving Day provide us with a rich tapestry of images...of seeds being planted...of crops being harvested. The seeds...after they are planted "die"...and grow into plants that are later harvested. We too will get "planted" when we die...and when the time is right according to God's timetable...we will be "harvested" to New Life in Heaven.

Let's consider the words to Hymn #137 (*Hymnal 1940*):

*Even so, Lord, quickly come
To thy final harvest-home'
Gather thou thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin:
There, forever purified,
In thy presence to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home.*

There is a sense of urgency in the hymn...we're anxious for Jesus to return and make the final harvest of our souls happen. In the very last verses of Holy Scripture, Jesus promises he is coming soon. We respond, "So be it! Come, Lord Jesus!" (*Revelation 22.20 TEV*)

God has his own timeline for working things out. We don't know when Jesus will return and shouldn't spend our time trying to figure out the exact hour and minute of his return. We should spend our time trying to conform our wills to God's...we then become active participants in his plan for Salvation. (*Philippians 2.12*)

God gives us the help we need to do this...as the words to Hymn #276 (*Hymnal 1940*) teach us:

*O may this bounteous God, Thro' all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts, And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplex,
And free us from all ills, In this world and the next.*

By all means let's enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the trimmings...and give thanks to God for "our life, our health, our food". And let's remember...

... *WE ARE THE HARVEST! AND WHAT A HARVEST IT WILL BE!*

Father Craig Looney+

ALL SOULS' DAY REQUIEM MASS...



A Requiem Mass for the repose of the souls of All Faithful Departed will be celebrated at 6:00 PM on All Souls' Day Friday 2 November. The Mass takes its name from the Introit said by Celebrant at the beginning of the Liturgy... "*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*"---"*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord.*" Requiem is Latin for rest.

This year, in addition to our own family and friends, we thank God for the life and work of two long-time parishioners who recently entered the Gates of Larger Life:

George Youngling died at the age of 95 on 22 August...the Octave Day of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. George faithfully served the Parish as a Member of the Vestry and Junior Warden. George will always be remembered for the gift of gab...he could with great enthusiasm carry on a conversation with anyone about any subject whatsoever. The Requiem Mass for George was held at Saint Joseph Parish on Wednesday 29 August.

Elaine Secrest died at the age of 98 at her home in San Mateo on 29 September...the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. For many years, Elaine served on the "Kitchen Cabinet"...making certain coffee and treats were ready for all to enjoy after Sunday Parish Mass. In spite of her mobility challenges...Father Looney recalls Elaine was always the gracious hostess...greeting him at the front door with a big smile, a hug, a plate of cookies and a cup of hot coffee. The Requiem Mass for Elaine was held at Saint Joseph Parish on Saturday 20 October.

Our Parish tradition is to incorporate the names of deceased loved ones into the Homily and close with the *In Paradisum*:

May the Angels lead them into Paradise; and the Martyrs receive them at your coming and bring them into the holy city Jerusalem. May the choirs of Angels receive them, and may they, with Lazarus once poor, have everlasting rest. Amen.

VESTRY MEETING...



The Vestry will meet on Sunday 11 November following coffee and fellowship time. On the Sundays Vestry meetings are held...the Discussion Group will not meet. Regular Vestry meetings are open to all interested parishioners.

CALL PRIMROSE...



Saint Joseph Parish will again be participating in CALL Primrose's Annual Fill-a-Box/Feed-a-Family Thanksgiving food drive. CALL supplies the Packing List and requests food items be placed in a banker's-type box. A sign up sheet is available. Filled boxes must be received at the church by Sunday 11 November. We will deliver them to CALL. Please: **NO GLASS BOTTLES OR JARS!**

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS...



Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 22 November. Please bring a non-perishable food item to add to our "Food Basket" which will be blessed at the Mass and delivered to CALL Primrose.

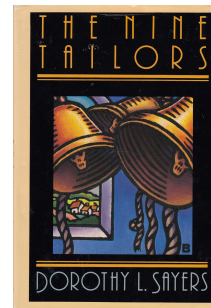
While Thanksgiving Day is not a Prayer Book Holy Day...it is appropriate we take time from our busy lives to give thanks to God for his many blessings great and small.

...*"Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning."* (James 1.16-17 TEV)

BOOK REVIEW

BY REBEKAH SHAPIRO...

Our Anglican literary heritage is not just the *Book of Common Prayer*, *King James Bible* and *Hymnal 1940*. These books have inspired many literary works which, while not being what we normally think of as religious writings, nevertheless help us to "inwardly digest" God's Word in our lives. In this and future editions of the *Parish Times*, we will recommend works of fiction by Anglican authors, or with Anglican characters.



The Nine Tailors, by the Anglican Dorothy L. Sayers, is a mystery about a valuable stolen necklace. The events center around a country parish church in eastern England. Sayers' love for the flat, stormy landscape and the musical heritage of this region is clear. The landscape and music are almost as much characters in the book as are the parish priest, the orphan girl who would have inherited the necklace, and the book's hero - Lord Peter Wimsey. This book has everything for a great detective novel: dark and stormy nights, cases of mistaken identity, mysterious strangers - and Mass on Sundays.

Sayers was a friend of C.S. Lewis, whose works we will explore in future issues of the *Parish Times*. She studied and taught at Oxford University during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition to her mystery novels, she is remembered for her work translating medieval poetry.

The Nine Tailors is available in regular, large print and electronic formats through the San Mateo County public libraries. (In some cities, residents over the age of 60 are not charged fines for returning library books late.) It can also be purchased online or through a bookstore.



A PRAYER FOR PARISH GROWTH

O GOD, WHO KNOWEST THE NEED OF ALL THY CREATURES, AND DOST BESTOW THE FAVOUR OF THY GRACE ALIKE UPON THE HUMBLE AND THE GREAT; BE WITH US IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS DEVOTED TO THY SERVICE, AND GRANT US, WE BESEECH THEE, SUCH INCREASE OF NUMBERS AND OF MEANS AS WILL SECURE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER TO THE WORSHIP AND GLORY OF THY SON, OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

YES YOU CAN...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
VOLUNTEER

Saint Joseph Parish has always been a place of exemplary volunteerism. We need additional help in the following areas to keep things running smoothly.

Coffee Hour: A regular list of volunteers is maintained who bring treats for coffee and fellowship time after Mass. If you are not currently on the list...see Marie Adams after Mass. She would be delighted to add your name to the list.

Altar Guild: We have three dedicated ladies on the Altar Guild and they could use some help. Consider volunteering for at least one Sunday per month. No experience is needed...just a desire to reverently serve God in the preparation of the Altar, to prepare the priests' vestments for various church services, and in maintaining the various linens required for such services.

Office Help: Father Looney needs one person to help out in the Parish Office one Saturday per month for approximately three hours...primarily in preparing *The Parish Times* newsletter for mailing.

ABOUT "STIR-UP" SUNDAY...



The Sunday Next Before Advent...this year 25 November...is the last Sunday of the Trinity Season. It gets its name from the Collect in which we ask God to "Stir up our wills"...so we may "bring forth the fruit of good works".

Father Massey Shepherd notes in the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary* the opening words "Stir up" (*excita* in Latin) has a double reference to God's power and man's will...and that the fruit of God's work and the fruit of our good works are not exactly the same thing...although they are connected.

In Victorian times "Stir up Sunday" became associated with the custom of preparing the Christmas Pudding...the quintessential British tradition.

SAINT CLEMENT OF ROME...



The Ordo Kalendar includes many saints days not found in the *Book of Common Prayer*. One of the more interesting Saints of God is Clement of Rome.

Little is known of Clement's early life. He was born in Rome ca. 35 AD. He is known to have been a leading member of the Church in Rome in the late 1st Century. According to tradition he was consecrated by Saint Peter and held the Office of Bishop of Rome from 88 until his death ca. 100.

Clement likely also met Saint Paul. Clement's only genuine extant writing is a letter he addressed to the Church in Corinth (known as I Clement) dealing with the incessant partisan turmoil of the Corinthian parish. His letter was read in churches along with other epistles.

At a Discussion Group several years ago a parishioner quipped..."About those Corinthians...did they ever write back (to Saint Paul)?" They apparently wrote to Clement... and got his attention.

According to tradition...Clement was imprisoned by order of Emperor Trajan in present-day Crimea, Ukraine/Russia. He ministered to and converted a number of fellow prisoners. He was executed by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea.

Saint Clement is the patron saint of mariners. His feast day is 23 November.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS AT 2:00 AM ON SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED SATURDAY NIGHT.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM SUNG MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

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.



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