

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK...

COME, LORD JESUS! WE'RE WAITING!...



In the Collect for the Sunday before Advent, we asked God to “stir up our wills”...to do good works and witness the results of our good works...and be “plenteously rewarded”. Our good works do not in themselves get us into heaven. They are a necessary part of our faith, which Saint James tells us must be active and dynamic. Faith without actions is not a living faith at all! (*James 2.13*).

On Advent Sunday we commence a New Church Year. This is a time for New Beginnings. We have the opportunity to do some spiritual introspection. Have we spent the long Trinity Season living our faith consistent with what James tells us it must be? Have we been kind toward others? Have we forgiven those who have hurt us? We now have the opportunity to ask God to refresh our spiritual lives.

The word “Advent” means “Coming”. The Advent Season is the time we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the First Coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. Advent is also the time we meditate on the four last things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. In Theological terms Advent is about Christian Eschatology...the study of what the Scriptures teach us about the four last things.

There is no escaping from death...one day we will all die. But death is not extinction. While we experience sadness when friends and relatives die...and they will experience the same emotion when we die...death is not without hope. Saint Paul tells us he wants us to know the truth about those who have died...so we will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. (*1 Thessalonians 4.13*)

What about judgment? Saint John tells us the world has already been judged (*Saint John 12.31*). We should not fear the final judgment, because there is hope in that too. It is important for us to realize how we live our lives and most importantly how we treat others play a role in how we are judged. (*St. Matthew 25.31-46*)

Heaven is our ultimate goal. Jesus tells us he has gone to prepare room for us, and those who die believing in him will get to spend eternity with him (*St. John 14.1*). Belief in Jesus is more than just a word. It is a commitment to living a life committed to love of God and love of others. Heaven is eternal life in the presence of God and all of the Angels

and Saints. Heaven is what we hope for, but have not yet experienced (*Hebrews 11.1-2*).

Hell...is the self-imposed eternal separation from God and those we love. It is the rejection of God's love, forgiveness, redemption through Jesus and all he has to offer.

All of the hymns we sing during the Advent Season talk about the First Coming of Jesus at Christmas. They also talk about his Second Coming. Hymn #5 in the Hymnal 1940 provides us with a powerful meditation on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy on our journey to Christmas:

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.*

*Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.*

*Yea Amen! Let all adore him
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone. Amen.*

*Charles Wesley
1758*

So be it! Come, Lord Jesus! We're waiting!

Father Craig Looney +



Advent Morning Prayer

Please join us at 9:00 AM on the Wednesdays during Advent for Morning Prayer, A Litany for the Church and Evangelism (printed on Page 2 of this issue) and a brief period of quiet Meditation.

Christmas 2022



Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Mass and Sermon

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
9:00 AM Mass and Sermon

Sunday, January 1, 2023
The Circumcision of Christ
9:00 AM Mass and Sermon
Coffee Hour



Friday, January 6, 2023, The Epiphany
12:15 PM Mass and Homily

ABOUT THE “ROSE WINDOW”...

One of the most striking features of our historic 1870 Carpenter Gothic church building is the “Rose Window” about the Choir Loft. Today, “Rose Window” is a generic term for any round window commonly found in Gothic church buildings.



Our window depicts Saint Joseph holding white lilies and a carpenter’s square. The white lilies signify faithfulness and purity. The carpenter’s square attests to Joseph’s profession.

The dedication in the lower portion of the window reads: “Donated by I.D.E.S. Council No. 1, 1889”. I.D.E.S. was a Portuguese fraternal society founded at Mission San Jose in Fremont on July 7, 1889. The Portuguese community at Mission San Jose gathered to give thanks and praise to the Holy Spirit.

The “Festa do Espirito Santo” or “Feast of the Holy Spirit” reflects the Portuguese people’s devotion to the Holy Spirit. The I.D.E.S. has strong ties to the Azores. A founding tenet was that each member would contribute one dollar to the widow of each deceased member. Portuguese communities in the Bay Area continue to celebrate the “Festa do Espirito Santo”.

I.D.E.S. merged with several other Portuguese fraternal organizations on January 1, 2010 to create the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America. The Portuguese Historical Society Museum in San Jose website contains a wealth of information about the I.D.E.S. and the role the Portuguese community played in the development of California.

2023 Ordo Kalendar



2023 Ordo Kalendars are now available. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the *American 1928 Book of Common Prayer* and lists the vigils and feasts found in both the *American* and *Anglican Missals*.

It also lists two feast days observed only by American Anglicans including The Bestowal of the American Episcopate (November 14) and the Preservation of the American Episcopate (January 28).

There is no charge for the Ordo Kalendar.

Every Member Canvass



Every Member Canvass letters and Pledge Cards will be mailed out the week of December 4. The Biblical Standard for giving is the tithe (10%) of gross income. Jesus applies a higher standard when he said much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given. (*St. Luke 12.48*)

God has given to us generously and he expects us to be equally generous. Please give prayerful consideration to the financial requirements of the Parish when completing your 2023 Pledge Card. Your signed and dated Pledge Card also entitles you to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Please return your signed and dated Pledge Card to the Parish Office by Sunday, January 8, 2023.



ANNUAL PARISH Meeting

The Annual Parish Corporation Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass.

We will review Minutes of the January 2022 APCM, review the Financial Report submitted by the Parish Treasurer, hear reports by the Rector and Wardens, approve the Proposed 2023 Budget, and elect new Vestry members and elect two lay delegates to the Diocesan Synod. The meeting will be held in the Church.

In accordance with our By-Laws, pledging members of the Parish are entitled to vote at the APCM. You must be current on your 2022 Pledge and have made a Pledge for 2023. Proxy voting is permitted.

Signed and dated Proxy Voting Forms must be received by the Clerk of the Vestry prior to the commencement of the APCM. Coffee and fellowship will follow the meeting.

A LITANY FOR THE CHURCH AND EVANGELISM

O GOD the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful;
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God;
Have mercy upon us.

WE sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the heart of thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and all in authority, that they may above all things seek thy honor and glory;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illuminate all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth, and show it accordingly;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth labourers into thy harvest;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to comfort and relieve all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, *[especially...]* giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy on the faithful departed,*[especially...]*granting them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

WE sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to fill us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ; (*Ephesians 4:11-13*)
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us power through the Holy Spirit to be thy witnesses, in word and deed, in our homes, work, and leisure;*(Acts 1:8)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to convert hearts through our ministry and add continually to our number those who are being saved;*(Acts 2:47)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless our ministry of Word and Sacrament, opening minds to understand the Scriptures and making thyself known in the breaking of the bread;*(Luke 24:45, 35)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make us ready always to give an answer to any one who asks the reason for the hope that is within us;*(1 Peter 3:15)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to put it into our hearts to seek out and find thy lost sheep, and bring them back into thy fold;*(Luke 15:3-7; John 10:14-16)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to fill us with such love for one another that all may perceive in our midst the presence of Christ and be drawn into his holy fellowship and service.*(John 13:34-35)*
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst endue thy church with power from on high on the Day of Pentecost; pour out thy Holy Spirit upon *this parish* and grant unto us all things that are needful for our spiritual welfare; enlighten and guide our clergy and lay workers; strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the negligent and careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; bring all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy church; to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Ember Days



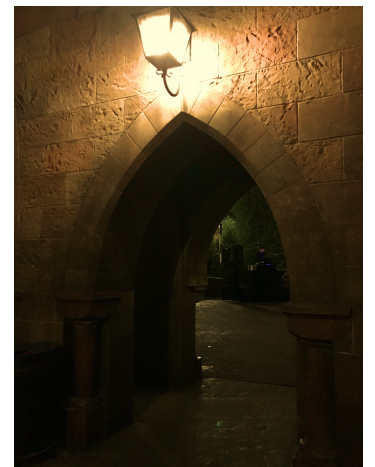
The Ember Days (from the Latin *quatuor tempora*...four times) are four sets of three days (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) occurring the week after Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, Holy Cross Day (September 14) and Saint Lucy's Day (December 13). The Ember Days are days of fasting and prayer for the increase in vocations to the priesthood. This year, the Winter Ember Days take place on December 14, 16 and 17. The Ember Day Lessons begin on Page 260 in the *Book of Common Prayer*.



“PLAY FOR THE TIMES”...

by Rebekah Shapiro

Artistic and spiritual movements tend to start in one area of art or spiritual discipline and then spread to other areas. With regard to the Anglo-Catholic restoration of the 19th Century, it started with serious prose at Oxford, England and continued with church practices that were easy to change, like the frequency of Communion.



Then there were visible and tangible changes to churches in the forms of vestments and architecture. There were also “new” hymns, which were actually new translations and settings of hymns from the Middle Ages. Finally, 100 years after the Anglo-Catholic movement began, there was an Anglo-Catholic drama, “Murder in the Cathedral” by T. S. Eliot. If the Anglo-Catholic restoration began with those prose writings, which were called “Tracts for the Times,” this play could be called a “Play for the Times.”



T. S. Eliot was an Anglo-American poet and Anglican convert who wrote in the United States and England in the early 20th Century. "Murder in the Cathedral" portrays the last days of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in December 1170. It debuted at Canterbury, England in 1935. The literary style of the play is reminiscent of both Greek tragedy, with a chorus of poor women of Canterbury, and William Shakespeare, because it is in verse and meant to be a presentation of historical events with a moral. The play is not, and is not meant to be, an "accurate" presentation of events in the way we might expect a documentary video to be. Rather, it is meant to make us think about how Thomas Becket was like the other saints we celebrate during the Twelve Days of Christmas. A meme that appears frequently on Anglican social media every Christmas summarizes that mini cycle of the Church liturgical year like this:

- December 26: St. Stephen, martyr in will and deed
- December 27: St. John Evangelist, martyr in will, but not in deed (because he endured execution for Christ, but miraculously did not die)
- December 28: Holy Innocents, martyrs in deed, but not in will (because they were killed for Christ, but too young to have any choice in the matter)
- December 29: St. Thomas Becket, martyr at Canterbury

What all of these saints have in common is that they shared in Christ's suffering, even unto death, out of love for Him. "Murder in the Cathedral" makes us think about that, too.



"Murder in the Cathedral" by T. S. Eliot is available in print and electronic copies at public libraries in San Mateo County and Palo Alto, and at bookstores. For deeper reading, the Parish Library has a biography of T. S. Eliot by Russell Kirk. The Library also has a biography of Thomas Becket by Richard Winston. This is a modern biography using primary sources, like you would read about a historical figure not specially recognized as "Saint" in the Church.



In the next issue of the *Parish Times*, we will learn how St. Thomas Becket's martyrdom at Canterbury in 1170 physically shaped our church building in San Mateo, California thousands of miles away and hundreds of years later. To prepare for that, this issue has photos of buildings displaying a similar architectural style, which I took during a recent conference for work. To make it fun, the first 3 people who correctly identify the location of the photos will receive a prize.

December Holy Days

There are two notable December Holy Days not found in the *Book of Common Prayer* but listed on the Ordo Kalendar. Both saints have a direct connection to Advent and Christmas.

The Feast of Saint Nicholas of Myra...the real Santa Claus...is observed on December 6.

Nicholas was born on March 15, 270 in Patara, Roman Empire (modern-day Gelemis, Turkey). His parents were wealthy Greek Christians. They died when Nicholas was still young. He went to live with his uncle, the Bishop of Myra (modern-day Demre, Turkey). His uncle, also named Nicholas, recognized his nephew's calling and ordained him priest. Nicholas later succeeded his uncle and became the Bishop of Myra.



Nicholas was known for his generosity, having distributed his inheritance to the poor. He heard about a man who had once been wealthy but lost all of his money. Unable to provide his three daughters with proper dowries, Nicholas secretly visited the man's house at night and threw a bag of gold coins in their window, saving them from a life of prostitution. Nicholas died in Myra on December 6, 343, aged 73.

Nicholas is model for Santa Claus (from the Dutch Sinterklaas). Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nick and Kris Kringle, is the legendary figure in Western Christian culture who brings gifts to children.



Saint Lucy was born c. 283 in Syracuse, Roman Empire (in modern-day Sicily). She is more commonly called Santa Lucia. "Lucia" is the female version of the Latin word "lux"...meaning "light". Lucy was born into a wealthy and noble family. Her father died when Lucy was five years old, leaving her and her mother without a protective guardian.

After her father's death, Lucy consecrated her virginity to God, a common practice for young women at the time. Her mother was unaware of Lucy's promise and arranged for Lucy to marry a young man from a wealthy pagan family. Lucy was not interested in the arranged marriage and had given her dowry to the poor. Enraged by Lucy's gift to the poor, the young man denounced her to the governor of

Syracuse. Lucy was ordered to burn sacrifices to pagan gods. When she refused, she bravely met a martyr's death c 304.

Saint Lucy's Day celebrations are held in Europe, especially on Scandinavian countries. The more secular "light festivals" mark the end of the long-dark winters. Saint Lucy's Day has a connection to Advent...the season Christ the Light of the World is about to be born.



Age-Friendly San Mateo News HICAP

Medicare Open Enrollment for 2023 began on October 15, 2022, and will end on December 7, 2022. If you are, or soon will be, eligible for Medicare and have any questions about the program you may want to consult with a HICAP counselor to get answers.

The Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a state-sponsored program that provides unbiased information to help you make an informed decision for your individual health care needs. HICAP counselors are trained to help you understand your Medicare benefits and your supplement options, including

- Original Medicare: Part A & B
- Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C)
- Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policies (Medigap)
- Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Part D)
- Coordination of Benefits with an employer health plan, COBRA, retiree plan and Medi-Cal
- Long-Term Care Insurance Policies

To learn more go to:

<https://www.hicapsanmateocounty.org/hicap-services/medicare-counseling/> or call 1-800-434-0222 or 650-627-9350 to schedule a one-hour appointment with a HICAP counselor.

This information is brought to you by the City of San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force. Watch this spot for future articles highlighting one of the many valuable services offered to seniors by various organizations and agencies in San Mateo.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Lent 2023 edition. The target date for publication and distribution is February 19. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail or in writing by February 12. All submissions are subject to space limitations and approval and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group

Weekdays/Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, Assisting Priest

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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