

# FOR ALL THE SAINTS

February 2024 | March 2024



The Most Wonderful News.

## ALL SAINTS' MISSION STATEMENT

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

## OUR VISION

*"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gifts
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

On the cover: Ukrainian artist Marina Orlova's interpretation of the Annunciation. She is a Ukrainian artist born on August 15, 1984 in Kyiv. She works with an oil on canvas or with a water paint on paper. Her favorite genres are portrait and figurative compositions. All her works are unique and unrepeatable even by herself. Source: Saatchi Art

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# FROM YOUR RECTOR

## The Greatest News



March 25 is the official date for the Feast of the Annunciation, also called Lady Day, or the Feast of the Incarnation. The feast commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on 25 March each year. In the Catholic Church, and also in Anglican Churches, if 25 March falls during Holy Week, it is transferred forward to the first suitable day during Eastertide. In Eastern Orthodoxy and Eastern Catholicism, it is never transferred, even if it falls on Pascha (Easter).

The Feast of the Annunciation is observed almost universally throughout Christianity, especially within the Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglicanism, the Catholic Church, and Lutheranism. It is classified as a Principal Feast in Anglicanism. Examples of the importance attached to the Annunciation, especially in the Catholic Church (and also in some Anglo-Catholic Churches), are the Angelus and the Hail Mary prayers, the event's position as the first Joyful Mystery of the Dominican Rosary, the Novena for the Feast of the Annunciation, and the numerous depictions of the Annunciation in Christian art.

The earliest evidence for a Feast of the Annunciation or Incarnation is from the sixth century. From the earliest recorded history, the feast has been celebrated on 25 March, commemorating both the belief that the spring equinox was not only the day of God's act of Creation but also the beginning of Christ's redemption of that same Creation.

All Christian antiquity held 25 March as the actual day of Jesus' death. The opinion that the Incarnation also took place on that date is found in the work *De Pascha Computus*, c. 240. It says that the coming of Jesus and his death must have coincided with the creation and fall of Adam. And since the world was created in spring, Christ was also conceived and died shortly after the equinox of spring. Similar calculations are found in the early

# FROM YOUR RECTOR

(continued)

and later Middle Ages, and to them, the dates of the feast of the Annunciation and of Christmas owe their origin.

As a church that includes the *Angelus* at the end of every Sunday mass throughout the year (except during Easter, when the *Regina Coeli* is used instead), All Saints' San Diego is obviously a parish that cherishes the significance of the Feast of the Annunciation, even when it might not be celebrated every year, due to the fact that it is not a feast that can replace a Sunday proper.

Although the feast as such is said to commemorate that the angel Gabriel informed Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, God's Son, it is clear that this is not just the delivery of a message, or the communication of some important news.

St. Luke's narrative is succinct, but it does offer the reader a vivid picture of the moment when this awesomely wonderful piece of news is communicated to Mary.

First of all, it depicts the situation as totally unexpected. Mary cannot at first make sense of the words with which the angel is addressing her by name—"full of grace, the Lord is with thee." Her humbleness does not allow her to grasp what these epithets might mean in relation to her person. She is also startled by such visitation, and the angel has to reassure her.

It must have been a deeply overwhelming moment for Mary. Most art works depict the angel at a certain distance from Mary, probably due to the conception that the heavenly creatures and human beings are in two different realms. However, I do like the conception of the artist who painted what we have in our cover picture. The angel is holding Mary. He is practically hugging her, giving her the support and reassurance she needs in such a crucial moment of her life.

What the angel has just announced is not only unexpected and transcendent, but it also overturns Mary's whole life. Her plans of marrying Joseph in the normal way (not with a pregnancy that could not be explained in a rational way) would simply end here. And she was being given the greatest honor, but at the same time the greatest responsibility that any

# FROM YOUR RECTOR

(continued)

mother could ever be given—becoming the mother of the Incarnate God.

Although the messenger—and God, of course—knew beforehand that the special young devoted and righteous woman they had chosen would respond in a positive way, in no way does the angel impose this decision to Mary. There is no direct Yes or No question asked here, but Mary's words clearly show that she has a say in the matter.

Our Creator would never violate the freedom with which He Himself created us. But what Mary's words show here is the total acceptance of God's will in His wonderful plan of salvation. She understands that her self-centered concerns—as valid as they may be—weigh nothing against God's all-encompassing loving plan for humankind and His whole creation.

"I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word." These are Mary's words as a response to Gabriel's announcement—the greatest and most wonderful news, and the one that would make any young woman tremble and crumble.

But the angel was there not only to announce, but to support and reassure. He was the messenger of God's love, and he made His love known to her.

When we, as Christ's disciples, are called by Him who is Love made man, we also have the freedom to reject the call. But if we have understood at all what this call is about, then we know that our petty self-centered concerns mean nothing, and we have really no good choice in our lives but to accept the call and follow through. His angels are also there, not at a distance, but right behind us, holding and hugging us, and giving us the strength to carry out the hard mission we have been entrusted with.

Father Carlos E. Expósito I  
Rector

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ALL SAINTS' MASSES & GATHERINGS

On Sundays we worship in our historic church. The Sunday service will be on Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting click [here](#).

The following worship services will be held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

- Noon Mass on Tuesdays
- During Lent on Fridays at 11:30am The Great Litany; 12:00pm Via Crucis. After Lent on Fridays, Morning Prayer at 10:00am.
- The next Societies of Mary meeting, now the First Saturday Mass, will be held in February on Saturday, February 3 and in March on March 2 at 11:30am.

## SPECIAL CLASSES AND PROGRAMS.

- Sundays from 10:00am to 10:45am – Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for children ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall taught by Lucretia Locke. For registration, call (619) 298-7729 or email us at [info@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:info@allsaintschurch.org)
- Christian Formation–Book Study–the first group is reading and discussing Fr. Nicolosi's Book "Strength in Adversity" and the second group is reading and discussing "A Most Peculiar Book by Kristin Swenson. Group I meets in the Rector's office; Group II in the Library.
- Thursdays – Spanish Class from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Meeting in the Library, taught by Fr. Carlos.
- Study Session : Life transformed: **The Way of Love in Lent** every Friday in Lent including Good Friday after the Via Crucis at approximately 12:40pm in the Rector's office.

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February

- |    |  |                             |
|----|--|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos   | 1pm—3pm                     |
| 2  | The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ In The Temple<br>Morning Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)  | 10:00am                     |
| 3  | <b>First Saturday Mass</b><br><i>St. Mary Chapel with Rosary at 11:00am and Mass to follow at 11:30am. An informal potluck luncheon to follow.</i> | 11:00am                     |
| 4  | <b>The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b><br>Mass (Bishop Visitation; confirmation and reception of a new member)                                     | 10:00am                     |
| 6  | Mass (St. Mary Chapel)   | Noon                        |
| 8  | Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos   | 1pm—3pm                     |
| 9  | Morning Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)   | 10:00am                     |
| 11 | <b>The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>Mass<br>Christian Formation (Group I Rector's Office;<br>Group II (The Library)                       | 10:00am<br>Noon             |
| 13 | Mass (St. Mary Chapel)<br>Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom   | Noon<br>6:30pm              |
| 14 | Ash Wednesday<br>Mass with Imposition of Ashes<br>Mass with Imposition of Ashes<br>Solemn Mass with Imposition of Ashes                            | 7:00am<br>12:00pm<br>7:00pm |



# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February

16	Great Litany	11:30am
	Via Crucis	Noon
	Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent	
	Rector's Office	12:40pm
18	<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b>	
	Mass	10:00am
	Vestry Meeting Rector's Office	Noon
	Greater San Diego Music Coterie Concert	
	Parish Hall	2:30pm
20	Frederick Douglass, Social Reformer	
	Mass	Noon
22	Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos	1pm–3pm
23	Great Litany	11:30am
	Via Crucis	Noon
	Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent	
	Rector's Office	12:40pm
25	<b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b>	
	Mass	10:00am
	Christian Formation (Group I Rector's Office; Group II (The Library)	Noon
27	George Herbert, Priest and Poet, 1633	
	Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon
29	Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos	1pm–3pm

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## March

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1  | Great Litany  | 11:30am |
|    | Via Crucis  | Noon    |
|    | Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent  |         |
|    | Rector's Office   | 12:40pm |
| 2  | <b>First Saturday Mass</b>  | 11:00am |
|    | <i>St. Mary Chapel with Rosary at 11:00am and Mass to follow at 11:30am. An informal potluck luncheon to follow Mass.</i> |         |
| 3  | <b>The Third Sunday in Lent)</b>  |         |
|    | Mass  | 10:00am |
| 5  | Mass (St. Mary Chapel)  | 10:00am |
| 7  | Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos  | 1pm–3pm |
| 8  | Great Litany  | 11:30am |
|    | Via Crucis  | Noon    |
|    | Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent  |         |
|    | Rector's Office   | 12:40pm |
| 10 | <b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>  |         |
|    | Mass  | 10:00am |
|    | Christian Formation – Rector's Office and Library   | Noon    |
| 12 | Mass (St. Mary Chapel)  | Noon    |
|    | Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom  | 6:30pm  |
| 14 | Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos  | 1pm–3pm |

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## March

15	Great Litany Via Crucis Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent Rector's Office	11:30am Noon  12:40pm
17	<b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Mass Vestry Meeting (Rector's Office)	10:00am Noon
19	St. Joseph Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon
21	Spanish Class (Library) Taught by Fr. Carlos	1pm—3pm
22	Great Litany Via Crucis Study Session: Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent Rector's Office	11:30am Noon  12:40pm
24	<b>The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday</b> Mass starts in the Courtyard	10:00am
26	Tuesday in Holy Week Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon
27	<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> Service of Tenebrae	7:00pm
28	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Mass and Agape Meal Vigil in St. Mary Chapel	7:00pm 8:00pm-10:00pm

# PARISH LIFE

## March

29	<b>Good Friday</b> Vigil in St. Mary Chapel Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service	9:00am to noon Noon 7:00pm
30	<b>Holy Saturday</b> Holy Saturday Liturgy Easter Vigil starts in the Courtyard	10:00am 8:00pm
31	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Mass	10:00am

## Societies of Mary Update

This has been a difficult year for the societies - sadly, there are no longer any active members from those groups. The last active member was Leo Rocca who had reactivated the All Saints' Ward of Our Lady of The Annunciation and served as Ward secretary. His untimely passing this last year left us without official standing.

Nevertheless, we continue to offer the first Saturday service as always. Starting with February of 2024 it will no longer be referred to as Societies of Mary. Instead this service will be presented on our church calendar as First Saturday Mass at 11:30am (preceded by the rosary [optional] at 11am) with an informal potluck to follow. On occasion, this service is moved to the second Saturday of the month due to scheduling conflicts. We would love to see you all there. It is an excellent time for an intimate, reflective service with good fellowship to follow.

If you have any questions, please see Fr. Carlos, Barbara Wilder, or Ed Heck.

# PARISH LIFE

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Lent begins early this year, so now is the time to begin our preparation for a season set aside for “special acts of discipline and self-denial” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 17). While the secular world is celebrating Valentine’s Day on February 14, All Saints’ Church will be observing Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40 days of Lent.

Our Vestry has once again adopted a year-round stewardship program that focuses on almsgiving for the benefit of those in need in Lent, on bequests and various methods of supporting the long-term needs of the parish during the Easter season, and on the traditional fall pledge drive from late September through early December.

As an Anglo-Catholic parish, All Saints’ has a long history of focusing on acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during the Lenten season. We might choose to expand our prayer lives by participating in weekday services including the Noon Mass on Tuesdays. Fasting might take the form of skipping lunch on Fridays or giving up at least one luxury (chocolates and wine are popular choices) for Lent. Such practices would also allow us to set aside the money saved by fasting and abstinence as a special offering to help those in need. This year the Vestry has voted to designate the entire amount of Easter offerings to be used at the discretion of our Social Action Committee to meet pressing needs in the parish, the city, and the world.

Those who use the offering envelope package may present their offerings by using the designated “Easter offering” envelope. During Lent, we will also make available in the church special Easter offering envelopes, which can be used at any time between Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and the Second Sunday of Easter (April 7). In addition, Easter offerings will include checks marked “Easter offering” and cash placed in the offering plates at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services.

Ed Heck, Treasurer

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

In this February/March issue of our bi-monthly newsletter we continue with our ongoing series of life stories of members of our parish. In this issue John Rogitz shares his story.



John holding an Iditarod pup in Ketchikan Alaska

I was born in downtown Los Angeles in 1956, the first of two sons to Leo and Bettie Rogitz. Leo had himself grown up in the “old L.A.” 1920s and Bettie in Chicago, where she was an amateur figure skating champion and daughter of a Chicago Cub from the Hornsby era who also was a World War I Army veteran.

My maternal grandfather was of Prussian extraction and his wife Irish. Both were born in America. My paternal grandparents immigrated here, grandmother from Bavaria (born when it was part of the German Empire) and grandfather from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, where he served in the same cavalry unit that later was that of the Red Baron. With that ethnic mix and with two grandparents being from defunct empires, schizophrenia might well have been expected in the progeny, although in my case it cunningly has been held in check by the corrective ingredient in Bombay Sapphire.

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

After service in the Navy in World War II, in which he participated in the Philippine and Saipan campaigns, Leo was an aerospace engineer. Bettie was a homemaker and, when brother and I were older, a bookkeeper for a school district. We grew up in Temple City, where Dad taught us how to handicap the horses at Santa Anita and Mom taught us how to actually win some bets. My brother and I were raised Lutheran, and I was for a time President of the youth group at our church primarily owing to being, as in Albanian politics, the only nominee.

A few months after high school graduation in 1974 I set foot on a plane for the first time in my life to visit a little boat school on the east coast, where I had never been, located on the banks of the Severn River. Annapolis, named after the last Stuart monarch, is the capital of Maryland, named after the wife of another Stuart king, and is a picturesque colonial era town made even more charming since the termination of its once-lucrative slave trade. I majored in physics and played on the lightweight football team (an east coast peculiarity). The price was right – not only was it “free”, I got paid – but upon graduation I was expected to serve in the Navy for some years, proving that nothing in life is really free. I chose the Submarine Service and made several deployments west from San Diego during the simpler, more elegant age of the Cold War when there was not yet airport security, no one was leashed to a cell phone, and we had to confront only the possible nuisance of instant nuclear annihilation.

During this time I got married and started raising two sons, John Mark and Stephen. I eventually left active duty and went into the Naval Reserve, from whence I retired as a Commander, not coincidentally the name by which I am known to my grandson. After leaving active duty I worked for a defense contractor and studied law at night, never intending to practice primarily because I loathed lawyers.

However, as luck would have it a West Point graduate rummaging the bottom of the barrel for a clerk found me, and introduced me to patent law. That turned out to be the nut that this squirrel had been searching for.

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

After a few years at a large firm, I met Jeanne and cajoled her to join me in a hare-brained scheme I had to set up shop on our own, and the rest, as they say, is history.



Jeanne and John at The Goring in London beneath the portrait of Nelson

My idea was to raise sons who could spit in my eye some day. That design was fulfilled much sooner than expected. Because John can't spit far he works for us as an attorney. He and his wife have a three year old son and year old daughter. Stephen works in cardio-thoracic surgery, and he and his wife just had their first boy.

We discovered All Saints' and were instantly drawn to its reverent, traditional liturgy. The friendliness of the congregation was and still is a delight. We have been blessed to be in such a wonderful parish.



# PARISH LIFE

## Flower Guild and Garden News

### Easter Flowers



We are offering an opportunity for parishioners to sponsor memorial Easter flowers, which will decorate the church and courtyard for Easter. Each person memorialized will be noted in the Easter bulletins. The cost of each sponsorship will be \$25. Flower forms are available on the tables in the front and back of the church after February 24 and in the Parish Office. **The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 25.**



The garden has provided much in the way of flowers and greenery this past year for the beautification of our church, indoors and outdoors, on a weekly basis. Now that winter has slowed down the growth of the plants and foliage and Spring is around the corner, it is the time to prune back and fertilize. The month of January will provide the time to weed, prune and clean up the Memorial Garden and the courtyard garden as well. We are looking forward to the gardens reawakening in the Spring!

Sue Johnston/Eaton

# PARISH LIFE



Join the San Diego Coterie Orchestra on Sunday, February 18 at 2:30pm in the All Saints' Parish Hall for a celebration of Chinese New Year with a performance of Li Huanzhi's (李焕之) Spring Festival Overture and Erkki Ensiö's Spring. Soprano Emily Ortlieb joins the orchestra with a selection of arias and art songs by Rossini, Donizetti, and Faure.



Emily received her Bachelor's degree in Voice Performance from the University of Illinois School of Music, and spent nearly 3 years in Austria with the Fulbright Program. As an operatic soprano, Emily has made a name for herself as a soloist at the world premiere of Spanish composer Pablo Croissier's choral works, and has sung the roles of Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Ophelie (*Hamlet*), and Euridyce (*Orpheus in der Unterwelt*).

Additionally, Ms. Ortlieb holds a law degree from the University of Minnesota and currently works as a legal associate for the UN Refugee Agency. She is a passionate advocate for refugees, stateless persons, and neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Emily is the soprano lead and soloist of All Saints' choir.

Free admission with free-will donation at the door.

# PARISH LIFE

## Study Sessions during Lent



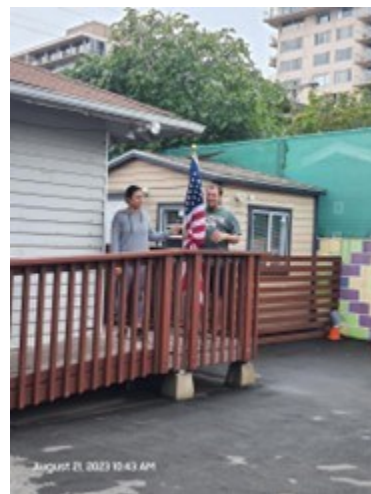
Fr. Carlos encourages parishioners to participate in a seven week study during the Lenten Season. You can join Fr. Carlos and other parishioners at a study session every Friday during Lent after the Via Crucis about 12:40pm in the Rector's Office. Or use this link <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/life-transformed-the-way-of-love-in-lent/> to take you to a page where you will have access to both material you can read, study and to videos corresponding to each session.

"This set of seven Adult Forums ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Drawing on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple (known as the catechumenate), the forums encourage participants to reflect on salvation history; walk toward the empty tomb; and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation. As we stand with the three women at the empty tomb, we hear his call to go and live that transformed reality. " Source: Way of Love in Lent web site.

# PARISH LIFE

Colmena Academy

All Saints' Campus Neighbor



# PARISH LIFE

## Colmena Academy

Six years ago, Alfonso, a then 10 year-old non speaking child with autism, dreamt about creating a school where other kids like him could access communication through technology and have an opportunity to learn and grow. With the help of his mother, Colmena Academy was founded with a mission to provide students who are non speaking, or unreliable speakers, a place where they can achieve communication while developing their bodies towards independence.

In the Spring of 2023, Colmena Academy found its new home at The All Saints' Episcopal church grounds. This new space allowed Colmena Academy to spread its "Bee" wings and grow its existing programs to new heights. The school garden became a Certified Schoolyard Habitat. This designation was made possible by creating a site that is recognized for its commitment to sustainably providing the essential elements of a wildlife habitat and providing students a place to learn outdoors and connect with nature. The garden has a wide variety of succulents and native plant species, as well as a garden that grows tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green onions, strawberries, and many other fruits and vegetables. Students work diligently to keep up and maintain our beautiful garden habitat.

Today, Colmena Academy continues to thrive. Students are provided access to academics not typically made available to them in other schools, as well as a wide variety of enriching activities to support their learning and development. Each week, students work with Sherri during occupational therapy innovating and integrating motor skills into tangible work and life skills. Students create and sell their own goods to the community; over the holidays, students created ornaments and sold them to the community. They get to learn all about product unit costs, budgets, profit margins, and marketing strategies. Their current project is creating boutique soaps to sell for Valentines day.

Every week, creativity and motor skills turn into delicious dishes during cooking class. With the help of our professional Chef Elsa, students learn all the steps in creating tasty and creative cooking dishes. They choose the ingredients and prepare a wide variety of delectable meals each week. This is an invaluable activity that helps students measure out ingredients, rinse, cut, cook and present the final dish in visually appealing ways.

# PARISH LIFE

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## Colmena Academy

Our new space also allowed for an entire room devoted to music. Each Friday, students get to develop their musical skills with the use of a full drum kit, piano, guitar and a variety of other percussion instruments. Students receive music lessons, as well as time to just “kick out the jam.” The space also doubles as a meditation room, where each morning students come to calm their bodies and minds to prepare for the day. Candles and aromatic diffusers help students get centered each morning as they get ready to develop their minds and bodies.

There are many more things happening on our campus at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, there is yoga, speakers, field trips, a work program, inclusion opportunities for students to drop in and “crash” a class, heavy academics and much much more. We’ve also taken advantage of the opportunity to involve students on the many improvement projects of our school grounds. We love our new home and the warm welcome we have received from everyone in the community. If you would like to teach a class, volunteer or help us grow, or if our purpose is what you’ve been looking for, please knock on our door.

Celina and Kurt  
Heads of School  
Colmena Academy



# COMMEMORATIONS

Brigid of Kildare , Monastic c, 523

February 1



**St. Brigid of Kildare** (born, according to tradition, Fochart, near Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland—died c. 525, Kildare, Ireland; feast day February 1) virgin and abbess of Kildare, one of the patron saints of Ireland.

Little is known of her life but from legend, myth, and folklore. According to these, she was born of a noble father and a slave mother and was sold along with her mother to a Druid, whom she later converted to Christianity. On being set free, she returned to her father, who tried to marry her to the king of Ulster. Impressed by her piety, the king removed her from parental control. According to the *Liber hymnorum* (11th century), the Curragh, a plain in Kildare, was granted by the king of Leinster to St. Brigid. At Kildare she founded the first nunnery in Ireland. The community became a double abbey for monks and nuns, with the abbess ranking above the abbot. Her friend St. Conleth became, at Brigid's beckoning, bishop of her people. She is said to have been active in founding other communities of nuns.

St. Brigid appears in a wealth of literature, notably the *Book of Lismore*, the *Breviarium Aberdonense*, and *Bethada Náem n-Érenn*. One of the loveliest and most gently

# COMMEMORATIONS

(continued)

profound legends of Brigid is the story of Dara, the blind nun, for the restoration of whose sight Brigid prayed. When the miracle was granted, Dara realized that the clarity of sight blurred God in the eye of the soul, whereupon she asked Brigid to return her to the beauty of darkness. Brigid is also said to have miraculously changed water into beer for a leper colony and provided enough beer for 18 churches from a single barrel; she is sometimes considered to be one of the patron saints of beer.

Brigid's feast day is observed as far away from Ireland as Australia and New Zealand. In early times she was celebrated in parts of Scotland and England that had been converted by Celtic churchmen. The church of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, London, is dedicated to her.

**Source:** Encyclopaedia Britannica



# COMMEMORATIONS

Gregory the Great, Bishop and Theologian, 604

March 12



Gregory of Nyssa, his brother Basil the Great (14 June), and Basil's best friend Gregory of Nazianzus (9 May), are known collectively as the Cappadocian Fathers. They were a major force in the triumph of the Athanasian position at the Council of Constantinople in 381. Gregory of Nyssa tends to be overshadowed by the other two.

Gregory of Nyssa was born in Caesarea, the capital of Cappadocia (central Turkey) in about 334, the younger brother of Basil the Great and of Macrina (19 July), and of several other distinguished persons. As a youth, he was at best a lukewarm Christian. However, when he was twenty, some of the relics of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (10 March) were transferred to a chapel near his home, and their presence made a deep impression on him, confronting him with the fact that to acknowledge God at all is to acknowledge His right to demand a total commitment. Gregory became an active and fervent Christian. He considered the priesthood, decided it was not for him, became a professional orator like his father, married, and settled down to the life of a Christian layman. However, his brother Basil and his friend Gregory of Nazianzus persuaded him to reconsider, and he became a priest in about 362. (This did not affect his marriage.)

# COMMEMORATIONS

(continued)

His brother Basil, who had become archbishop of Caesarea in 370, was engaged in a struggle with the Arian Emperor Valens, who was trying to stamp out belief in the deity of Christ. Basil desperately needed the votes and support of Athanasian bishops, and he maneuvered his friend Gregory into the bishopric of Sasima, and (in about 371) his brother Gregory into the bishopric of Nyssa, a small town about ten miles from Caesarea. Neither one wanted to be a bishop, neither was suited to be a bishop, and both were furious with Basil.) Gregory did not get along well with his flock, was falsely accused of embezzling church funds, fled the scene in about 376, and did not return until after the death of Valens about two years later.

In 379, Basil died, having lived to see the death of Valens and the end of the persecution. Shortly thereafter, Macrina died. Gregory was with her in the last few days of her life. Afterwards, he took to writing sermons and treatises on theology and philosophy. His philosophy was a form of Christian Platonism. In his approach to the Scriptures, he was heavily influenced by Origen, and his writings on the Trinity and the Incarnation build on and develop insights found in germ in the writings of his brother Basil. But he is chiefly remembered as a writer on the spiritual life, on the contemplation of God, not only in private prayer and meditation, but in corporate worship and in the sacramental life of the Church.

**Source:** James Kiefer BIO

# PARISH LIFE

## Vestry 2024



From left to right back row: Blair Lawson, Gary Beyer, Michael Lockridge, Cree Craig, Senior Warden, Fr. Carlos, Rector, James Hansen, Lois Meyers, Junior Warden, Lucretia Locke, Barbara Wilder.  
From left to right front row: Tanya Tatem, Jo-Darlene Reardon.  
Not pictured: John Rogitz.

(Picture by Teri Tremper)



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