

FOR ALL THE SAINTS



MAY 2008

*The Magazine of the Parish of
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, San Diego*

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SIXTH & PENNSYLVANIA, HILLCREST

SAN DIEGO'S TRADITIONAL ANGLO-CATHOLIC PARISH

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SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8:00am	LOW MASS
10:00am	HIGH MASS

DAILY MASS

Tuesdays	7:00am & 12 noon
Wednesdays	9:30am
Thursdays	7:00am & 6:00pm
Fridays	9.30am
Saturdays	9:00am

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BY APPOINTMENT

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FATHER TONY WRITES...

Dear friends,

Once again our parish has been blessed with a wonderful celebration of Holy Week and Easter. This was my 5th Easter as your Rector, and it is no exaggeration to say that it was the best. All the liturgies were inspiring and wonderful. Many people assist to make this possible – acolytes, choir, flowers, & many others – but I would like to make particular mention of Robert McLeod and the choir. They put in a marvelous effort, and the results were excellent.

To add to the beauty of our Services the attendance all through Holy Week was outstanding. Attendances at every Service were up on last year, and for the Easter Triduum was the highest ever. Easter Day my joy was full to see over 100 at 8 am & a full church at 10 am. As St Augustine of Hippo said: We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!

John Gray took some great photographs, beginning with Palm Sunday right up to the Bishop's visit. They are on our website.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

One of the features of the Mass of the Lord's Supper is the Washing of the feet. The priest washes the feet of twelve people, following the example of Our Lord's washing of the apostles' feet at the last Supper. Each year I choose a varied group of parishioners. This year I chose the five children who received their first Holy Communion at the beginning of Lent, along with their mothers. I know it was an experience the children will remember for a long time. Part of their growing into Christ within our parish family.

CONFIRMATION

The Sunday after Easter was the visit of the bishop. At the High Mass he confirmed three of our young women. This was a joyful occasion, and brought to a climax that wonderful Easter week. Please keep Tamela, Mary & Kim in your prayers.

LENT

I have had a good Lent. I made time for fasting, reading & prayer - and my spiritual life benefited greatly. The question is, will I continue along this track!

A highlight for me was the Service of Stations of the Cross & Benediction with the choir on Sunday March 9th. This was the 2nd evening Service we have held this year. There will be another Service featuring the choir at 5.00 pm on Sunday June 29th. Do make a note of that.

PRAYING THE MASS

In Lent the church encourages us to find more time for prayer and meditation. One of the things that we easily forget is that the Mass is the great offering of prayer. However, we are not very good in our praying of the Mass. The more prayer and intention we put into it, and prepare ourselves for it, the greater is the benefit. My church teaching series in this edition is called “Praying the Mass”, and is on pages 10/14.

FASTING

Another discipline of Lent is fasting. This is good for us physically & spiritually - & as an exercise in self control. Do we think about this outside of Lent? The church has rules about fasting before receiving Holy Communion – do we keep them? I write more about this important subject on page 15.

In the article I refer to the familiar prayer “We do not presume”, which we say just before Holy Communion. Sometimes this is omitted at High Mass, along with the Thanksgiving Prayer that we all say after Communion. The rule, I follow is that when there is something extra in the Mass, these two prayers are omitted.

This will be on major festivals, when we have a procession at the beginning of Mass, and on occasions when there is another sacrament celebrated – EG: Baptism and Confirmation.

RIP

Just before Holy Week two of our long-standing parishioners died.

Russell Litchfield had been a sidesman at 10.00 am Mass, but was unable to come to church in recent years. It was my privilege to visit him with the Blessed Sacrament in the past twelve months.

Ying Hing Tsui was a faithful attender at the 8.00 am Mass, along with his whole family. It was a privilege to minister to him in hospital, and to give him the Last Rites whilst he was still conscious. Mr Tsui was an honored & respected member of the Chinese community. A wonderful Requiem Mass was celebrated in All Saints', and it was wonderful to hear Amazing Grace sung simultaneously in English and Chinese.

Eric Borchert Jnr died suddenly on April 1st. In the midst of sadness we offered a Requiem Mass for him full of Easter hope. It was an inspiring Service, with a packed church. Our prayers are with Judy, Eric III & Fritz.

May our departed brothers rest in peace, and know the joy of the Easter victory.

Now we move into summer. As well as a succession of major festivals at the end of May we have our Summer Garden Party on June 1st. I look forward to all these occasions as celebrations of our life as God's people at All Saints'.

Your priest and friend,

Fr Tony

From Judy Borchert and family

Judy Borchert with her sons, Eric III and Fritz would like to send her warmest regards and thanks to the entire All Saints' family for all of the kindness, love and support offered to her and her family with the recent death of Eric Jr. The Family will forever hold each member of the Parish family in their thoughts and prayers.

A decorative background featuring several stylized flowers with dark centers and light petals, some in full bloom and some as buds, on thin stems with leaves. The flowers are scattered across the page, creating a garden-like atmosphere.

*You're Invited To
The Garden Party
Sunday, June 1st, 2008
From 3pm to 5pm*

*At the Home of Marjorie Mitchell
4210 Ingleside Ave., San Diego 92103*

Musical Performances by:

Bob Macleod

Pauline Tweed

Judy Mowers

And Special Guests:

Rita Cantos Cartright

Ole Kittleson

Stars of Local Musical Theatre

Proceeds to the

All Saints' Church Music Department

\$20 Donation Per Person

Catered Food and Beverages

CORPUS CHRISTI



SUNDAY, MAY 25TH, 2008

10:00AM HIGH MASS,
PROCESSION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
AND BENEDICTION

CHURCH TEACHING SERIES

NUMBER 10

PRAYING THE MASS

At the entrance to many Churches there is a notice which reads: "Silence Please, talk to God before Mass and to each other after Mass".

We must learn to approach God prayerfully and that requires quiet preparation before Mass and re-collection during Mass.

This is an aid to your preparation at home and before Mass begins. It may also help to centre your whole self upon God during Mass.

It is very easy to lose that sense of devotion by a lack of stillness and quiet both before and during Mass. How easy it is to indulge in idle chatter or to create a disturbance by doing a whole range of jobs which could be done at a more appropriate time. Even the way we move about the Church can create unnecessary noise. The greatest disturbance of the peace can come from showing visible disapproval of what others are doing. Not only does any of this mean that we are not being prayerful but it destroys the devotion of others.

I must approach Mass with proper preparation. This will mean a time of prayer at home - perhaps on a Saturday evening.

I must arrive at Mass in good time. It is bad manners to arrive in a rush at the last moment or late. It is rude both to God and to my fellow worshippers. Whatever my duties during the Mass I need to arrive in good time so that I can have a time of prayer before Mass begins.

For whom have I come?

I have come to worship God and to receive my Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. How easy it is for me to take his love for granted. I must focus my attention and my love on Him. I might picture the cross or look at something in Church which reminds me how much God has done for love of me. I can repeat well known words from Scripture or prayers and hymns which express my desire for God.

Reading God's Word.

I can look at the Mass readings as my preparation for the Ministry of the Word.

Confession.

As a part of the Mass we confess our sins. All too often I can say the words without any thought of what I am confessing. In the light of God's love I must examine myself so that I might truly know for what I have to say sorry. Each day I should have a space to look back over the previous twenty-four hours to see where I have sinned in thought, word, and deed. But I must remember that there is no substitute for Sacramental Confession to a priest. I need to come to Mass knowing what sins I am confessing.

My Intention.

During the Mass we have the Prayers of the People when we are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

Petitions are then offered on our behalf, by one of those present, to which we all respond. I must go to Mass with my own petition - my own intention for that Mass. What is a particular person, situation, need that I am carrying in my heart to add silently to the prayer of the whole Church? In a more general way my regular intercessory prayer will be focused in the Prayers of the People and I will bring my own prayers to add to those for the Church, the world, the sick and the departed.

The Offertory.

The Offertory should be more than a break in the Mass during which the Altar is prepared; or an opportunity to take the collection. The priest receives the gifts of bread and wine. As they are being laid upon the Altar we should each be offering the gift of our whole lives with them. Here, Lord, is my life, all that I am; all that you have given to me. The gifts I know that I have and those I have yet to discover. The good that is in my life but also the darker side; the failures, the sinfulness, the pains and sorrows. The things I do day by day and all the people who are part of my life. In fact all that makes me. All this I lay on the Altar with the bread and the wine. What I offer will be given back, but what I get back will be more than I gave, for my gift will be transformed. When I make my communion it is Jesus Christ that I receive and it is the gift of his very self that I receive into that life which I offered.

Thanksgiving.

At the centre of the Mass is the Eucharistic Prayer. It is a prayer of thanksgiving (Eucharist means thanksgiving) when we thank and praise God for all the great things he has done and continues to do.

As the priest re-enacts the words and actions of Our Lord at the Last Supper he reminds us that as Jesus took the bread and again as he took the cup “*He gave you thanks and praise*”. There is much for which to give thanks in my life but how seldom do I say ‘*Thank you*’ to God. As the priest says the Eucharistic Prayer I too must be giving thanks. This too must be a part of my preparation and in that daily looking back over the previous twenty-four hours I will find, even in the darkest times, so much for which to say ‘*Thank you*’ to God.

Communion.

As I come to make my Communion I should be aware of what I am about to do. It is very easy to receive Communion with little or no thought for the One who is giving his very self to me. As I wait to receive the Body and Blood of Christ I can throw away those precious moments by thinking of myself or, worse, chatting to others. If a hymn is being sung as I wait, the words might focus my attention or I might repeat silently a phrase like “*My Lord and my God*” or the response to the words of invitation “*Lord I am not worthy...*”.

Now talk to each other.

Are you one of those who dashes out as soon as Mass ends and then complains that nobody speaks to you? Our fellowship with each other is an essential part of Church life. But there is a great danger of talking only to those we know, or being so busy with Church affairs that we fail to be welcoming and friendly. Be aware of the stranger or the person standing alone.

Fasting.

This is one part of our preparation for Mass that is not today given the emphasis that it should have. As I am to be given the most vital food of all in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar I must abstain from other food for at least one hour before Mass. Only medical necessity should change this.

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If each one of us took our preparation for Mass more seriously and if we were more devout during Mass we would find that our particular Church had become a much more prayerful place. Not only would this deepen our own relationship with God but it would also draw others to him.

I would find that, being more focused on God, I was much less likely to be distracted by the noise of others and would be less of a distraction myself. The children and young people in our congregation would then have an example of quietness and devotion to copy and an atmosphere of prayer in which to grow in the Christian Faith.



FASTING

By the Rector

Everyone knows that for Muslims the month of Ramadan is primarily about fasting. The Christian tradition of fasting is much older – and in Lent we make a special effort. Fasting accompanied by prayer was enjoined by Our Lord, and is a part of our spiritual lives that is much neglected.

In the “old days” fasting was prescribed on all Fridays, Ember Days & Vigils of Feasts. It was also the rule for receiving Holy Communion – fasting all morning. It was a discipline of the body as a fit preparation for receiving into our body the Body of Christ. Times have changed! The rule of the catholic church is that one should fast ONE HOUR before Mass. I wonder how many people observe this rule?

It concerns me that we never hear much about fasting in the Episcopal Church. No doubt modern liturgy, with its emphasis on the Eucharist as a family meal is partly to blame. It is also because discipline and repentance for sin are no longer considered important. This prompts the question: Is our religion only spiritual, and nothing to do with the body? Of course not – otherwise we would not pray for healing.

We are one of the churches that still uses the prayer “We do not presume”. In this prayer we pray that “our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body”. We say “We do not presume to come”.....and yet we do presume to come – often unprepared. Holy Communion is a physical encounter with God. This well known Anglican prayer reminds us that Christ’s Body can and will have a physical effect on us. We should prepare for this by fasting with our body.



DATE FOR THE CALENDAR

**The Solemnity of
Saints Peter & Paul**



**Sunday, June 29th, 2008
5:00pm**

**Evensong and Benediction
*featuring music from
our organist and choir***

A Problem of a Growing Parish by Rick Ochocki

At the most recent Vestry meeting, two matters were discussed that raised the issue of a problem with a growing Parish. First, Lu Locke reported that attendance at the Sunday School has grown so dramatically over the last year that a new table is needed for the classroom so that all the students can work together at the same table. For those who can recall an All Saints' Church with few young people and hardly any children, this development is gratifying and a little astonishing. Secondly, Sam Dreyer presented the Financial Report that showed that donations from pledging lag behind the pledged budget amount. This is a bit of a concern as the Parish continues to grow both in number and spirit. If the pledge giving does not match the budgeted amount, it may mean that adjustments to spending might need to be taken, to the detriment of the increasingly vibrant ministry of our Church. For anyone who has ever had a role in church governance, this situation is not unusual. In fact it is easy to imagine that even the early Christian Church grappled with the growing pains associated with the rapid spread of the Gospel and the energetic response to the message of salvation offered by faith in Jesus Christ. When a recent Sunday's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles said "*And the Lord added to their number day by day to those who were being saved,*" that sentence was preceded by a practical note on how the ministry of the early church was supported: "*And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all as they had need.*" With the impressive growth of All Saints' Church and the new liveliness in the congregation, this seems like a good time for each of us to review our own stewardship commitment. For me personally, this has meant reading my Bible in the morning before I get out of bed for the new day, and allowing enough time for morning prayer so that I'm not distracted by anxiety about my commute to work. It has meant working so that my service as an acolyte and lay reader is undertaken joyfully even when I'd rather sleep in or just sit in the congregation during worship.

And it has meant adjusting my personal spending so that I'm caught up on my pledged giving to our shared Church. Please remember that stewardship is not just about paying the bills of a Parish. Instead, the cheerful contribution to the Church of the first fruits of our blessings, the happy giving of time, talent and treasure, is the opportunity for every Christian to support the growth of the Parish and to participate enthusiastically in the ministry of the wider Church. As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians, "While there is still time let us do good, and especially to those of the household of faith."



Society of Mary

*Our meeting this month
will be on
Saturday, May 24th, 2008*



*11:00am
Recitation of the Rosary*

*11:30am
Mass
followed by potluck lunch*

Praying for our Military

Please keep in your prayers
the following members of our Parish
and their families

On active duty

Fr David Thames
Amy Garrett

At Home

Robert White
Ian Kelley
Mark Llewellyn
Nua Moa
Mike Wilson

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ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL PRE-SCHOOL

3674 Seventh Ave, San Diego 92103

Phone: (619) 298 1671

Director: Ms Remika Battles

now accepting ages 2 -5

