

# THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 50, No. 4

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

SEPTEMBER 2009

*An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Labor Day Deacon's Fare, Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>:

Join us in feeding our neighbors in need. Volunteers should arrive at 10am to help set up or serve the meal. Contact Christopher Fredricks or Daniel Schwartz for more information (650) 344-8615. Donations are also welcome to help offset the cost of feeding nearly 400 guests (make checks payable to Church of the Advent, earmarked "Lunch Bunch").

### Evening mass (6:30pm) on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>:

will be for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, for St. Matthew; and on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, for St. Michael and All Angels.

The Advent Book Club will begin at 7pm on Michaelmas, September 29<sup>th</sup>, in order to allow attendance at the earlier evening mass. The discussion to be led by Father Paul will follow a reading of *Dream of the Rood*, an Old English dream poem. †

## SATURDAY MASS AT ADVENT

*Father Paul*

After a brief hiatus in July and August we are revisiting the Saturday Vigil Mass at Advent starting with an Anglican Missal Mass at 5pm as of August 29<sup>th</sup>. On first and third Saturdays this Mass will be, as it has been for some years now, a Latin Chant Mass with our intrepid volunteer Schola. On second Saturdays there will be a simple Rite One Mass to meet the expressed desire for an occasional traditional language liturgy. On fourth Saturdays we will continue to experiment with a contemplative liturgy that is a combination of chant, movement, silence, and a simple celebration of Mass. On fifth Saturdays, when they occur, we will continue to offer an Anglican Missal Mass much as it was said at Advent in the 1940s and 50s. There are plans in the works for an occasional Mass in Spanish (or maybe even Portuguese) to reach out to some people of the Mission District. Watch this space for details as plans develop. †

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

*Father Paul*



The St. Anselm's Guild of Church of the Advent has been busy this summer working on opportunities for formation and growth for our whole parish. Looking at some of the needs both expressed and implied we have developed a plan to

help all of us reflect on how we are to care for ourselves as well as each other. We have planned three programs each to take place on the last Sunday of the month following coffee hour and including a simple lunch.

The first on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, will feature our Senior Warden, Sam Cantin, leading us in a discussion of how we can get involved without getting burnt out. Just how do we become a part of the life of the Church without it taking over the whole of our life and becoming a burden? What is the level of commitment that we are able to maintain that is both significant for us and sustainable within the community?

On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, Jack Jensen, Dr. Anna McHargue, Mother Robyn Arnold, and the Rector will make a presentation about how, as Christians, we prepare for the end of life. As well as spiritual issues around prayer and study we will be looking at some very practical issues such as making a will, health care directives, and how and with whom to plan for your funeral.

As we move into the busy season of Advent and life gets more hectic we will take some time out on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> to look at how to stay focused on prayer despite so many distractions. This discussion will be led by Reese Probst. †

## *You Can Help*

In these tough economic times it can sometimes seem as if there is nothing we can do to make a difference. Even when we hear news that countries around the world are coming out of recession we all still feel the pain. There is, undoubtedly, less money to go around and just as our contribution is needed more urgently we find ourselves unable to respond. But there are many ways you can make a difference even if right now it seems too hard. First, you can sign up for eScrip. It will not cost you anything and our church benefits from your membership. Between May 2008 and April 2009 the church received \$585 through this source without costing our members a penny. You can sign up by going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and make sure that Advent of Christ the King (group number 150991326) is the group you assign for compensation. If you have already signed up, the church is grateful, and do remember to renew before November 1st, 2009.

Another way that you can make a big difference is by considering carefully your non-monetary contribution to the parish. As with many voluntary organizations we rely heavily on a few people who

do most of the work. You may be asked to be a Vestry Member, a Convention Delegate, sit on the Endowment Committee, and your response may be an unconsidered "no". We ask that you think carefully about how you can make a difference by agreeing to one of these posts. Despite what you may have heard, the Vestry can be a rewarding experience and being a part of the governance of the Church is a spiritual discipline from which any of us can benefit.

Finally, for those of you who do still have financial means you can make a big difference by sponsoring one or other of the many services that Advent uses. Garbage pickup cost us \$290 a month, telephone and internet is billed at \$150 a month, and our pest control costs \$79 an month. All these are necessary for the operation of our church, and you can make a difference by sponsoring one of these bills for a month (or more).

In hard times it is easy to become inward looking but God calls on us to look outward and to keep in mind all the many blessings we receive each day and often take for granted. ✝



## *From the Editor*

If you are observant beyond all reason you may notice that once again I am the sole editor of THE SCEPTRE. Michael Fullam is embarked on finding other ways to serve among the wider community of Christians. The last of this newsletter that I will edit will be the January 2010 issue. If this is to be continued someone needs to step forward and grab the reins. Coincidentally, I will also cease to be the Websexton. If the website is to be part of our parish communication, it also will need someone to take it on. The alternative to voluntary involvement would mean letting go of sparse financial resources to contract with people who edit newsletters or manage websites professionally.

If you think you might use this as a opportunity to aid the parish, I will be glad to discuss it with you. I'm also willing to train or to assist anyone during the next four months to make the transition easier and, I hope, free of stress.

On a personal note, for the most part these past six years have been a joy. Handling these responsibilities, in addition to five years on the Vestry and three years as Junior Warden has encouraged me to strengthen my love for our community and for all of its members.

Yours in Christ, *Lewis*

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Stephen Rucker – baptism
- 3 John Pitoniak – birthday
- 4 Ricardo Avila – baptism
- 6 Lizette Larson-Miller – priesthood  
Lee Ryan – birthday
- 7 Sally Schweikert – baptism
- 10 Bob & Carol Kossler – marriage
- 13 Claire Dodds – birthday  
Christopher Fredricks – baptism  
Bob Kelliher – baptism
- 14 Sam Cantin – baptism
- 20 Michael Fullam – baptism  
Geoffrey Glaser – birthday
- 21 Barrie Bates – birthday  
Anna McHargue – birthday
- 22 Jim Monios – birthday
- 26 Michael Dwyer – birthday
- 27 Basil Parker-Matthews – birthday
- 30 Karen Johanns & Claire Dodds  
– holy union

**THIS MONTH'S  
CELEBRANTS & PREACHERS  
AT HIGH MASS (11:00AM)**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
*PENTECOST XVIII*

CELEBRANT: FATHER BERTIE PEARSON  
PREACHER: FATHER PAUL BURROWS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
*PENTECOST XIX*

CELEBRANT: FATHER JOHN PORTER  
PREACHER: MOTHER ROBYN ARNOLD

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (6:30PM)**  
*HOLY CROSS DAY*

CELEBRANT: FATHER PAUL BURROWS  
PREACHER: BROTHER RICHARD-JONATHAN SSF

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
*PENTECOST XX*

CELEBRANT: FATHER LOUIS NEWTON  
PREACHER: MOTHER ROBYN ARNOLD

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**  
*PENTECOST XXI*

CELEBRANT: BROTHER RICHARD-JONATHAN SSF  
PREACHER: FATHER ROD THOMPSON

**ARS POETICA**

**DUCKING**

More significant than any act is the power,  
the impetus behind it.

An ocean fish may gather enough momentum to leap  
into the air and may even fall into a boat  
and bite someone;

but tracing that act to its source reveal the Ocean  
as the cause.

Our thoughts leap out of God;  
creation took flight from His bow.

Behind every act is the Beloved; He is the cause.  
The child blames others for their woes.

No one can change the course of His arrows.  
That does not mean that one should  
not become adept at  
ducking.

*St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)  
as presented by Daniel Ladinsky  
in Love Poems from God*



DETAIL FROM *THE TRIUMPH OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS* (1471) BY BENOZZO GOZZOLI (1420-1497), MUSÉE DU LOUVRE, PARIS

# THE SCEPTRE

SEPTEMBER 2009

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MAY I NEVER BOAST OF ANYTHING EXCEPT THE CROSS  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BY WHICH THE WORLD HAS  
BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD. .

1 GALATIANS 6: 14