

# The Sceptre

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

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

## From the Rector

October 2011

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Monte Gargano is a small peninsula that juts out into the Adriatic from the east coast of Italy. Delving into the side of the mount is a cave, which from ancient times has been identified as a holy place, in the Christian era being associated with the Archangel Michael. Several visions of this celestial protector were claimed until, on May 8, 663, the Lombards attributed their defeat of the Byzantine Greeks to the intervention of St. Michael. This event led to the building of the great basilica that now protects the cave but when, on September 29, the Bishop went to consecrate the Church he found the marks of consecration already on the Altar and walls and declared that St. Michael had already performed the ceremony. The claim is still made that this is the only place of Christian worship not consecrated by a human being (although a similar claim is made about the original Westminster Abby in England) and hence the raising of the feast of the Dedication to such an important date in the Church calendar.

Calling on celestial aid in times of difficulty is something that human beings have always done and continues today, as

## News Briefs

Parish Meeting to take place after High Mass on Sunday, October 29. At this the Vestry and an ad hoc committee of parishioners will be presenting plans for the revitalization of the parish. This meeting will also include an opportunity to talk about how, and whether, a joint project with FAIS could be a part of plans to make our parish grow. Please be there and participate in this important discussion.

The Lunch Bunch will no longer be a weekly service to our community, as we lack the necessary volunteers to sustain it. For the time being Lunch Bunch will serve meals on the second Tuesday of every month. Please consider this very worthy cause. Lunch Bunch is a great way to serve the community by feeding those in need. If interested please contact Deacon Michael Schreiber.

times get hard once more. The problem for us is that such aid is not always as predictable as we would like. For the Lombards, St. Michael became a two edged sword. Among the early pilgrims to the shrine at Gargano were the sons of the crusader, Tancred. Unable to participate in the land grab that followed the First Crusade, they used the opportunity of the request for aid by the Lombards, once again under attack in Southern Italy, to carve out territory for themselves in Mediterranean basin. For us, calling on aid from heavenly guardians may also bring about unintended and unforeseen consequences. When we look to God to improve our lot do we realize that God expects us to share the wealth and make an effort to bring about the relief we want, or do we expect an intervention to help just us leaving everyone else where they are ?

As we celebrate our supernatural guardians the angels we do well to remember that we too have a responsibility to be guardians of others, to work for the welfare people we may not know or even like, and to share the blessings that are showered on us so freely by profligate and forgiving God.

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The Sceptre is the monthly newsletter of Church of the Advent of Christ the King, a parish of the Episcopal Church. We are an Anglo-Catholic church, that is, one with a strong emphasis on worship and the life of prayer. Here, in addition to a warm welcome by a diverse group of people, you will find an atmosphere of quiet reflection on the presence of God, great beauty in the visual aspects of corporate worship, and music that inspires and transforms. Here, through our life of prayer, you will find people committed to bringing the love of God, Incarnate in his Son, into the lives of all. I hope that we can touch your life with that love as you join us in worship of the Creator.



If you use facebook, please remember to like and share the facebook pages of Church of the Advent of Christ the King, and Schola Adventus. It will help us grow, and that way you will also receive updates on special events and schedule changes that are posted there.

# Music Program News



## Schola Adventus Concert Postponed

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the *Schola Adventus* concert scheduled for Sunday September 18 due to illness. Please pray for Paul Ellison's complete recovery from pneumonia. This concert, Music in Honor of St. Peter, will be rescheduled for early next year.

## Third Sunday Series Concerts

Please join us for the first concert of the new Third Sunday Series on Sunday

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Please join us for the first concert of the new Third Sunday Series on **Sunday October 16** at 4 pm, **Bach to Bach**: a concert of Bach cantatas and Italian Songs and Sonatas featuring **Lauren Carley**, alto, accompanied by violin, cello, and harpsichord. The series continues with the following concerts in 2011:

**Sunday, November 20** at 4 pm, **Ave maris stella: Music in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary** from St. Mark's, Venice, featuring **Kevin Baum**, tenor. A program of Gregorian chant and vocal solos and duets by Claudio Monteverdi, Alessandro Grandi and Giovanni Rigatti for two tenors and instruments.

**Sunday December 18** at 4pm, First Unaccompanied Cello Suite by Bach, and Treble Viola da Gamba Duets, featuring **Adaiha MacAdam-Somer**.

## Music for All Saints and All Souls

**Schola Adventus** will observe this year's 400th anniversary of the death of the great Spanish Renaissance master, Tomás Luis de Victoria over All Saintstide.

## Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30pm

Procession & High Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints

Setting: Victoria - Missa O quam gloriosum  
Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30pm

High Mass of Requiem for the Feast of All Souls

Setting: Victoria - Missa pro defunctis with Gregorian Chant interpolation.

## Annual Advent Liturgy

Our Annual Advent Liturgy will take place on **Sunday, November 27** at 6pm. George Anton Emblom will again join us as organist. This is always a popular and well-attended event. A festive reception will follow.



The Diocese of California has begun to assemble a Communications Network, enlisting one member from each congregation, commission, and committee to act as a liaison. This liaison will share news and stories from our congregation, and will be the recipient of information from the diocese and the greater network. Jude Morton is our congregation's representative.

The first non-virtual gathering of the DioCal Communications Network is taking place at St. Mark's Berkeley on September 17. Subjects to be discussed that day include church marketing (including social networking) and E-newsletter production. Look forward to a full report in the next Sceptre.

In the meantime, if you have ideas or suggestions about diocesan and inter-parish communications, please contact Jude Morton in person or at [juderaven1@gmail.com](mailto:juderaven1@gmail.com).

## Congregational Vitality Initiative By Jude Morton

The Diocese of California has launched a Congregational Vitality Initiative, calling for congregations to assess their gifts and needs and work with the Diocese to ensure our viability.

Throughout the western world, church attendance is falling at a precipitous rate, and that includes the Diocese of California. "This is the moment when we must make decisive and long term commitments to a transformed church life," Bishop Marc Andrus said in a recent interview. On September 13, the Diocese hosted an initial "webinar" (on-line audio conference and slide presentation). This meeting was open to rectors, vicars, associate clergy, and all vestry or bishop's committee members. Over 100 people participated. Participants from Church of the Advent were Father Paul Burrows and Jude Morton. After an opening prayer, the meeting began with a review of the many achievements and successes of the diocese, historical and current, large and small. Participants were able to contribute suggestions and the result was a long and encouraging list of vital activities, including our Lunch Bunch and Episcopal Sanctuary masses.

Davy Gerhard of Holy Innocents spoke about the benefits of the area ministry his parish engages in with St. Aidan's, St. Gregory's and St. John's, from shared liturgies and social events to shared outreach and shared clergy. The Rev. Mark Spaulding of Holy Cross in Castro Valley described the benefits of a deanery-wide vestry and delegate retreat at Bishop's Ranch.

Canon Michael Barlowe presented details of the Mission Effectiveness Reviews under way in the diocese. Ultimately all congregations will be able to benefit from these collaborative assessments.

The Rev. Dana Corsello from the Executive Committee discussed the challenges of church growth, and encouraged congregations to "use the assets we have in our parishes - smart capable people. Get a pool of people together to get down to the business. Share your ideas with other parishes. One letter every October will not make miracles happen."

Brenda Paulin of St. Augustine Oakland recounted her congregation's renewed emphasis on spiritual engagement - opportunities for Morning Prayer, Bible study, and Compline. Bishop Marc noted, "Our spiritual underpinnings are where we have to start. There are riches of faith in our congregations and the world is hungry for them."

The goals of the Initiative are to share growth strategies and benefit from the resources the Diocese can offer to congregations. Beginning in December, there will be monthly webinars, involving assignments for participants and sharing of experiences. Congregations, including Church of the Advent, will be assembling small but diverse groups of committed participants to engage in this process.

As Bishop Marc said in his closing remarks, "When we are successful we won't be worrying about filling the gaps in our pews - we will be worrying about how to deliver the good news more effectively".

Stay tuned for more on this exciting initiative!

# Memories of Southern France

By Richard Stookey

September 13, 1972

This day I rise early for a pilgrimage to Roncesvalles. It is the celebration of the Nativity of the Virgin (Nativity is 9/8 but it is celebrated then for Spanish Basques 9/13 for French.) Juanesh Tipi told me about it yesterday when he and Manuel were bringing in the regain, and with M's urging I decided to go.

The morning is, surprisingly, bright and clear. At 7:am I am going down the road toward Baigorri. Very nervous and uneasy as I always am when breaking out of my routine - and especially as I always am when I set out alone in the car for a long drive. At Oronos I get gas and check the oil and tires. Give him 50F for a purchase of 17F and walk out without my change. He comes out to give it to me, very bemused and a little cross. I am tongue-tied of course. Set out from Baigorri in a thoroughly agitated frame of mind.

Fog between Baigorri and St. Jean - tule fog. Lights on. Danger of driving adds to my apprehensiveness. But by the time I make Arneguey, the fog is gone and I am a little better. Beautiful clean, crisp autumn day as I go up the grade.

Arrive at 9:00 am. Mass at 9:30 but many people there already. I drink lukewarm

tea and smoke in the car until 9:15, then go in to the chapel. Pews are almost all filled already. I get a good seat. A Spanish sister comes and takes the seat next to me - chubby, but a very pretty face. Pews all filled now and people beginning to sit on rough wooden benches along the side. Very glad that I came in a little early.

A man in ecclesiastical white climbs into the right hand pulpit and begins to prep the congregation on the songs and responses in a little mimeographed book they gave to us at the door. All Basque. I have put my book in my pocket and the sister, thinking that I don't have one, holds hers so that I can see it. After a few minutes I lean over and say to her in Spanish that I can't read Basque - she gives a little start, but then smiles and holds the book just for herself. She is a good singer, loud and sweet. I wished that I could have sung so that we could both sing loud and sweet.

The congregation prepped, the priests come in. The celebrant, a short authoritative-looking man, the assistants younger (a little) and tall - one swarthy and one pale. The celebrant begins to read from the missal, the congregation making sung responses now and then - led by the man in

the right-hand pulpit. He is a consummate artist, very good singer and very sure of himself about where to come in, etc. After 15 minutes or so he stops and there begins an unusual kind of confession - probably necessitated by the fact that people come from far and cannot confess before the mass. The celebrant stays in his center chair behind the altar, the other two priests go to stations at the side of the sanctuary, and the people line up to make confession. The celebrant a wonderful picture - inclines his ear and, taking off his glasses, rubs his eyes with fingers while the confessor speaks in his ear. Sometimes a look of great anguish on his face as he makes the sign + over the confessor and calls for another.

Confession over in about 15 minutes (sister does not go up - probably has made private confession earlier), the mass continues. Wonderful loud singing when the song is familiar to the congregation - many where the women sing alone, then the men, then all. The canon of the mass is a concelebration of 5 - the three plus two others on the ends of the altar now, but before the canon, the swarthy priest, gives the sermon from the left-hand altar. very articulate and forceful. Even though I cannot

## This Month's Celebrants and Preachers at Sunday Mass

**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Paul Burrows

**Sunday, October 9, 2011**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Robyn Arnold

**Sunday, October 16, 2011**

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Celebrant: Louis Newton

Preacher: Alexander Martin

**Sunday, October 23, 2011**

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Celebrant: Jude Hill

Preacher: Paul Burrows

**Sunday, October 30, 2011**

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Jude Hill

## September Anniversaries

1

1 Stephen Shull - birthday

2 Pamela Vaughn - baptism

6 Wayne Fry - birthday

7 Vincent Jang - confirmation

13 Jonathan Mortimer - baptism

15 Cameron Fitzsimmons - birthday

18 Ricardo Avila and William Bonnell - marriage

Light Devoy Harris - birthday

Jude Hill, SSF + - baptism

19 Fred Hansen - confirmation

Jim Swearingen + - birthday

21 Mary + and Jim Hudak - marriage

22 Ian McClohrrie - baptism

23 Cort Cortez - birthday

Michael Stroup - birthday

Stuart Vaughn - birthday

25 Lee Francke - birthday

Earl Shaddix - birthday

26 Robert & Renee Schwartz - marriage

28 Jack Fredricks + - birthday

30 Bob Kramish - baptism

Michael Stroup - baptism

31 Mark Eriksson - birthday

Tom Miller - reception

Lauran Pifke + - birthday

understand a word, I can see that he is a master. The congregation is enthralled.

Communion given by the five priests - each set up in a different corner of the chapel. Very quickly done. Another song and thanksgiving and it is finished.

The crowd disperses - some to the bar with the big fireplace (which must be remembered)

And some into their cars for a big breakfast in Burguete. I find myself walking toward Burguete, then down a little road to the left across a stream, and onto a high moor where sheep are pastured. (On the way, along the main road, beeches three feet in diameter - awesome trees.) The view is astonishing - the buildings of Burguete and behind just the beginning of the limestone cliffs of the Irati. The sky a dark blue, characteristic of Spain, especially here (lapiz, not frosted like in France), dramatic cirrus clouds. The wind cold, biting, but I am warm in sweater and Harris tweed.

Walk back to Roncesvalles. Too late to go to Burguete for wine so I buy some and some cigars in the bar near the church. See Juanesh Tipi and Juan Rojo. Turn down a half hearted invitation to dinner from the former and set out. Stop on top to see the battlefield and the monument to Roland. Home by 1:30 for barbecued hamburgers. Tired.

# The Sceptre

October 2011

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