

THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 53, No.2

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

FEBRUARY 2013

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

FROM THE RECTOR

February, T.S. Eliot tells us, is the cruelest month, and with Lent beginning on the day before Valentines Day, the feeling of cruelty will be reinforced. While the rest of the world is gearing up to celebrate romantic love, observant Christians are just beginning a rigorous fast tied to an increase in spiritual practice. If this seems this seems a little unfair it does go with so much of what we expect of each other (if not of ourselves) in most of our interaction with the rest of the world. There are those who would say that is precisely what we are about; that we are to witness to a different standard to the rest of the world. Commendable as that may be, it can be self defeating and can also have some unforeseen, and even dangerous, consequences. We often run the risk of making ourselves irrelevant to the lives of those around us and, at times, even ridiculous. One of my pet peeves is when, in argument, a person will, for support, say 'the Bible says' as if that were proof of their point. As people of faith we are, more than most, given to the sort of circular logic that undermines the very points that we are trying to make. Just because we believe does not make a cogent argument that will convince the skeptic.

This Lent I would like to offer a spiritual discipline that we can all aspire to, to set aside our passionately held beliefs and try to find the reasons for our faith. What I am suggesting here is a sort of life laundry for the soul, an examine of, not what we believe, but why we believe it.



That, after all, is what Lent is supposed to be about, joining those who are preparing for Baptism and going back to the basics of our faith. In doing this it is my hope that we can all begin to see new ways of commending the faith that we hold to the indifferent and skeptical who surround us, without being condescending or impatient with those outside of our tradition. I cannot pretend that this will be easy or comfortable; on the contrary it will challenge the core of our being and make us face the prejudice and preconceptions that so often cloud our reasoning. If we can do that we will truly be engaging in a Holy Lent and be ready for the awesome mystery that is Easter; the Resurrection of life in the face of defeat and death.

Father Paul



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INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR SFJAZZ CENTER OPENING



Banner: On Sunday, January 20, the Rev. Paul Burrows and the congregation of [Church of the Advent of Christ the King](#), San Francisco, welcomed, with an interfaith service, the new [SFJazz Center](#) at Fell and Franklin Streets. The service included an Islamic call to prayer; readings from Martin Luther King and John Coltrane; Buddhist chants led by the San Francisco Zen Center; Gregorian chant sung by Schola Adventus; jazz; and a blessing from Fr. Burrows. Heartfelt words of appreciation were heard from SFJazz Center Executive Director Ranall Kline and Executive Operations Director Felice Swapp.

January 23, 2013



*One of the joys
of coming to church
is the opportunity
to sing.*



On the occasions when *Schola* will be absent this year due to our cost-cutting efforts, I plan on starting a new volunteer choir. It will be **open to anyone interested and you don't have to be a parishioner to join**. The goal is for the group to be four-part: soprano—alto—tenor—bass. A simple audition will be involved. (It should take only five minutes!) If I am already familiar with your voice, I will be happy to waive the audition. If you are interested, please contact Paul Ellison in person or at music@advent-sf.org.

If you are interested in learning to sing Gregorian chant, please consider joining one of our two volunteer chant choirs, *Schola Cantorum* (men) and *Schola Femina* (women). The notation is not difficult to learn and the experience of singing chant is deeply uplifting.

Music News

*Sharing God's gift of music
with the wider community*

Dr Paul Ellison,
Director of Music

Photo: Marshal Cousins



This year the music department has tightened its belt significantly while still endeavoring to provide as much music as we can within the budget set for the year. The music director and *Schola Adventus* have accepted pay reductions.

We are seeking donations to defray the cost of music for special services. We welcome your contributions for Evensong at Grace Cathedral on March 17, which promises to be a wonderful liturgical experience. Please help in whatever way you can to nourish this precious resource.

Choral Evensong

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2013 3 PM

Music by SCHOLA ADVENTUS

*Proces and Responses - Thomas Tomkins
Second Service Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis - William Byrd
Salvator mundi - Thomas Tallis*

GRACE CATHEDRAL

1100 California St San Francisco, CA 94108

Music praises God;

it is the Church's greatest ornament.

Igor Stravinsky

Third Sunday Series Concerts 2013

March 17 Schola Adventus

Choral Evensong at Grace Cathedral

May 19 MUSA baroque instrumental ensemble

Sept 15 Schola Adventus

Oct 20 Lauren Carley, Alto

Dec 15 Adaiha Macadam-Somer, cello

ANNUAL MEETING

~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, after High Mass ~

Lent this year begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13, an early start to our annual time of self-denial and out reach. In 2001 we held the Annual Meeting on the first Sunday in Lent and this year we plan to do the same, holding our meeting after High Mass on Sunday, February 17. There is something very appropriate about using this reflective time in the Church year to, not only look at what we have done over the past year, our achievements and our failures, but also to look ahead with new resolve at how each of us can improve in our commitment and service of God and the Church. Leadership is a major part of Church life and most of that will come from you, the members of the congregation.

There are three slots to be filled on the Vestry of the Church and we are blessed to have three talented and committed members who are willing to commit to three years of service but there are also some other positions that need to be filled also of importance to our common life. We need one person to commit to serving for two years on the Endowment Committee that oversees the Church's invested funds, and four people to commit to to serve this year as either delegates or alternates to the Diocesan Convention.

These will also represent us at the Deanery Convocations held four times during the year. There are many other opportunities to be involved at greater or lesser levels with the many Guilds that volunteer to help the Church run from the very visible Acolytes to the very hidden Altar Guild, and the many outreach efforts to the Sanctuary and the Lunch Bunch, all of which would welcome your participation. And, of course, it is your financial contribution that keeps the lights on, the Church heated, and ministry visible, so please, if you have not done so yet, send in your pledge for 2013 so that we can all work together for the good of all.

Fr. Paul

SHROVE
TUESDAY



Tickets are now available for the annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Extravaganza**. The tickets will be available at Coffee Hour for a suggested donation of \$7. The usual American and English pancakes, and other goodies, will be served on **Tuesday, February 12, starting at 6:30pm** in Lathrop Hall. All proceeds will benefit Church of the Advent. Please contact Ler Nelson after Mass or at lernelson@gmail.com if you are able to help at the Pancake Extravaganza, or would like to contribute toward the cost of food. See you there !

LENTEN READING SUGGESTIONS

I was happily surprised to discover that many of my favorite reading suggestions for Lent are contained in our parish library. If you are looking for free and conveniently accessible books for your Lenten reading, these and many more are available from the Ewing Cobb Memorial Library, located in the Pittman Room.



Four Quartets by T.S. Eliot

I read these poems every Lent, and look forward to them with pleasure. The poems are four interlinked meditations about humanity's relationship with time, the universe, and the divine. Eliot blends his Anglo-Catholicism with mystical, philosophical and poetic works from both Eastern and Western religious and cultural traditions.

Teach Us To Pray by Andre Louf

I received this book as a gift and I treasure it. "The only true prayer," asserts this classic work on contemplation, "arises from the heart that is beginning to awaken and discover the depths of the spirit within." A Trappist monk and scholar of the desert fathers, Louf draws on ancient and biblical sources to offer a powerful and personal testimony of a life of spiritual discipline.

Life of the Beloved by Henri Nouwen

Subtitled 'Spiritual Living in a Secular World', this book has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy. When Nouwen was asked by a secular Jewish friend to explain his faith in simple language, this was the result – an eloquent and fascinating testimony.

Meditating on the Word by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A collection of Bonhoeffer's 1 writings, sermons, and letters on meditation—including his unfinished masterwork on Psalm 119.



The Divine Milieu by Teilhard de Chardin

This book by the French philosopher and Jesuit priest was so revolutionary that its publication was initially suppressed. It seeks to offer a way for secular life to be divinised, and shows how an individual's spiritual life can participate in the destiny of the universe.

The Practice of the Presence of God by Br. Lawrence

A text, compiled by Father Joseph de Beaufort, of the teachings of Brother Lawrence (born Nicholas Herman), a 17th century Carmelite monk. He was much preoccupied with cultivating a keen sensitivity to the presence of God in everyday life.

Lent with Evelyn Underhill by Evelyn Underhill

A selection of enduring devotional writings, chosen for their pertinence to Lenten themes by the great Anglican mystic of the 20th century.

Lent with Mother Julian by Julian of Norwich

This out-of-print classic consists of readings from St. Julian's "Revelations of Divine Love".

Jude Morton

LIBRARY ACCESS

Any Sunday after High Mass, or any time Sam or Suellen or Fr. Rod are available.

CHECKING OUT BOOKS

There is a blue binder on the black shelf near the closet. Just fill out a line on the sign-out sheet in the binder. Books are 'due' after one month. Contact information (email or telephone number) is required. Any of the St. Faith Guild members will be happy to assist with finding things or answering questions.

LATIN CHANT MASS Saturday Feb 2, 5 PM**HIGH MASS / SUNG MASS
SUNDAYS 11:00 AM****4th Sunday after Epiphany, Sunday February 3**

Celebrant: Paul Burrows
Preacher: Rod Thompson

Last Sunday after Epiphany, Sunday February 10

Celebrant: Rod Thompson
Preacher: Jude Hill

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday February 13**High Mass with Imposition of Ashes**

Celebrant Paul Burrows
Preacher: Rod Thompson

1st Sunday of Lent, Sunday February 17

Litany and High Mass
Celebrant Paul Burrows
Preacher: Alex Martin

2nd Sunday of Lent, Sunday February 24

Celebrant Jude Hill
Preacher: Rod Thompson

Holy Hour - 5 PM Saturday February 9

Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Saturday 5 PM February 16, 23

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Feb...Philip McCloaghrie (birthday)
- 4 Feb...Sam Cantin (reception)
- 6 Feb...Catherine Costas (birthday)
- 6 Feb...Lauran Pifke + (confirmation)
- 6 Feb...Suellen Thompson (birthday)
- 7 Feb...Larry O'Connor (birthday)
- 8 Feb...Amy Ramsey Burt (birthday)
- 15 Feb...Catherine Costas (confirmation)
- 28 Feb...Barrie Bates + (confirmation)
- 28 Feb...Tom Miller (birthday)

**WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE**

DAILY MASS Monday 10:00am, Tuesday 6:30pm, Wednesday 7:30 am, Thursday 6:30pm (except feast days), Friday 10:00am (except feast days), and Saturday (and Federal holidays) 9:00am.

EVENING PRAYER Monday 6:00 PM, Friday 6:00 PM (excluding Federal holidays)

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AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE
 THREE; AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.
 I CORINTHIANS 13:13