



THE SANCTUS

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TRACT CORNER

The following is an excerpt from an article in the Christian magazine Mandate, written by the Rev. Peter Toon, editor.

Have THINGS changed for the better in the churches?

“It depends from where you make the evaluation and judgment! Anyone who is old enough and has a long enough memory is aware of many changes that have occurred in the customs and ways of western churches since World War II and more especially since the 1960s.

Here are some of them described briefly and not scientifically from a conservative standpoint:

1. *A major change in attitude towards the Lord's Day.* Once it was a day of rest and gladness; now it is church in the morning (or even Saturday evening) and then free to pursue other things the rest of Sunday. The sense of a day of rest and of being with the Lord has virtually disappeared...

2. *A major change in outward dress for divine worship.* Once it was wearing one's formal best in order to meet with the King; now it is usually wearing comfortable casuals to meet with the heavenly Friend. We have gone from dressing-up to dressing-down.

3. *Once it was always, "Thou/Thee" and now it is nearly always "You."* With this also often comes an informality to worship and perhaps a seeming lack of reverence for the LORD.

4. *A major change in the type of Bible used in church.* Once it was the KJV or one of the versions in the tradition of this "English Bible." Now it is often one or several of the new types of versions which are more of a paraphrase than a formal translation. This has led to a serious decrease in Bible memorization from any version.

5. *A major change in the actual basis for morality.* Once it was clearly the Law of the Lord, his Commandments and Statutes. Now it is much more the content of modern Human Rights and the Commandments of God as seen in

the light of these. One result is a dumbing-down of standards and of expectations of standards.

6. *A major change in the way in which the ethos and development of general western culture is regarded.* Once there was a great concern not to be conformed to the world but to be in the world and for the world while not being of the spirit of the world. Now in a variety of ways the churches follow the spirit of the world because they believe that God is revealing his nature and will through what is happening in the world at large. What once was regarded as the sphere of Satan is now regarded as the sphere of God's self-revealing and as such is to be embraced.

7. *A major change in the way that the mission of the Church in the world is perceived and executed.* Once there was a certain commitment to the uniqueness of Christ and of the need to proclaim him everywhere as the only Savior and Way to the Father – to be accompanied by the good works of education, medical services etc. Now Christ is usually presented as an inclusive Savior rather than an exclusive one and much of the message of the churches is about peace and justice in the world. These changes, with many others, have occurred in churches in Western Society as the process of secularization in the West has continued and as church attendance, especially in Europe and Canada, has decreased rapidly. Some of the changes were made consciously to try to retain or win back members by being relevant and credible in a changing world. Others were made to try to get rid of what were deemed to be bad or unsatisfactory attitudes, ways and customs. Yet others were made in order to make Christianity easier to embrace and hold!

In conclusion

It would appear to be the case that anyone today who keeps the Lord's Day seriously going to church, who dresses formally for worship, who addresses God as "Thee/Thou", who reads the KJV or the RV or the RSV daily, ... who believes that before God we have no rights but only duties and responsibilities, ... who accepts that salvation is out of sin and this world into the glorious world of the age to come, who thinks that the church is to be in the world and for the world but not of the world, and

who believes, teaches and confesses that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life in an exclusive sense, is these days out of step even with “conservative” and “orthodox” opinion in the generality of evangelical and mainline churches.

To put all this in another way; he who conforms to what was generally regarded in say 1960 as the basic requirements of being a Christian is today perceived as hopelessly out of touch and perhaps weird – certainly irrelevant and probably “a fundamentalist”!

Interestingly, in Britain & Europe many young people, usually, but not always, born into Muslim homes, are embracing Islam in its full traditional form, or at least in as full a form as it is possible to live it in the modern West rather than the Arabian desert. As Christians become more liberal and casual in the practice of their Faith, so Muslim young people become more conservative in the practice of their religion.

There is no possibility or purpose in seeking to go back to 1960 for we live in 2004. However, we can learn from the past and use that understanding to evaluate where we are today, asking whether or not we have so lowered the standards of the Christian Faith as to make it all too easy to embrace and not worth dying for.”

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”
Amen.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen

MEDITATION

The Wisdom of Fr. Andrew

We believe in the Virgin-Birth, not because there is anything peculiarly divine in being born of a virgin, but because the Incarnation is the act of God. It is infinitely more congruous and fitting that the divine entry into human life should have been by the deliberate act of God than through the ordinary process of human generation.

The Incarnation is the act of God. He was made man and dwelt among us, and in His manhood He was absolutely loyal to human nature and all its limitations. Our Lord had two great loyalties. One was His complete loyalty to His human nature. He met man’s temptations with man’s weapons and no others. He shared the limitations and conditions and the knowledge of the times in which He lived. He knew the aches and pains of man, the tiredness of man, the temptations of man, the agony of man, the death of man. He asked to be exempt from no handicap that human nature knows as human nature. That is one perfect loyalty which we see in Christ. The second is His perfect loyalty to divine ideals. In the spiritual sphere He was as loyal to the divine ideals as in the human sphere He was loyal to human limitations. As God in man’s nature He interpreted God to man as perfectly as He, as man, represented man to God.

“Fourth Sunday in Advent” in *Meditations for Every Day*.

Submitted by Deacon Blair Schultz

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Through your generous donations we were able to provide Thanksgiving dinner for five needy Bolingbrook families. A total of \$515.00 was given and we divided the monies equally for each family. We were able to provide the dinner, including turkeys and special treats. We also purchased many stock-up items such as flour, sugar, and canned foods. Thank you!

Thank you also to Chris Hall, Chris Oschman, Kim Solomon and Marcia Wilson for donating their time to shop and to Will Spencer for helping to deliver the food to the 1st Baptist Church of Bolingbrook for distribution to the families.

Please continue to remember the needy throughout the year and bring your food donations for FISH to our church at any time. If you might be interested in donating time to FISH, please contact me. You do not have to live in Bolingbrook to help.

Yours in Christ,
Marie D. Spencer

MUSIC AND CHOIR

Each year I invite parishioners who are not in the choir to come and sing with us on Christmas Eve. Having just a few additional voices greatly adds to the richness of the sound. This year, we could especially use a couple of additional high female voices although any additional help would be welcomed.

What commitment would be required? There will be a practice following mass on December 19th plus a "final" practice on Christmas Eve in the early afternoon. The choir sings at both the 6:30 PM and 11:00 PM masses in addition to leading the 10:30 PM caroling service, which we will be doing for the 6th consecutive year. To ease the burden of travel, we will be having a light potluck meal for choir members and their families after the 6:30 mass. More details will follow for those in the choir.

For those of you who can sing and would like to join us for Christmas, please do! It is always an enjoyable experience with a minimal commitment and your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,
Jeff David
Organist and Choir Director

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

November was a busy month for All Saints Parish. Our All Saints Day Salad Luncheon on November 7th had about 35 people attending. We enjoyed delicious salads and good company. Thanks to all of you who made the wonderful salads for this special day. We welcomed Bishop Florenza on November 14th, and enjoyed cake and fellowship. November 21st was Father Hines' 5th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Our entire parish honored Father by having his certificates as Deacon and Priest framed. We are truly blessed to have Father Hines as our priest, and we wish him many happy years to come.

Remember our "Mitten Tree," which will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 28th. The mittens will go to needy children in our area. If you have any questions, please contact Libby Bolton.

Bill and I hope many of you will be able to join us for our parish Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11th, 5:30 PM. **Please RSVP by Monday, December 6th.**

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to bring cookies for our "Cookie Walk" on Sunday, December 12th. The proceeds will benefit our Seminary. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Munsie, Chairman. Cynthia Bordner and Katie Ross are working with Jane to help us with this first-time event at All Saints. Remember to invite your friends and family to come and purchase cookies too. Ask them to arrive about 10:45 a.m.

Thanks to all who participated in the October Dominick's Benefit Days. We will be doing this again on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6, 7 and 8. Please keep this in mind while doing your grocery shopping. It's an easy way for our ACW to make money. Look for a copy of the coupon in this Newsletter, and please pass them out to your friends and family. Additional coupons are available in the Narthex.

Our next ACW meeting will be Sunday, January 9, 2005, when we will elect officers at our annual meeting. The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President	Barbara Jepson
Vice-President	Sue Stines
Secretary	Jane Munsie
Treasurer	Lilli Longinow

All women and girls who are members of All Saints are members of the ACW, and we welcome you all to our meetings.

Barbara Jepson
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

On November 21ST, Pledge Sunday, I presented the proposed Operating Budget for 2005 to the parish. I want to share that information with those who were not able to be in church.

Since 2004 was the first full year of occupying our present building, this year's budget included some guesswork as to actual expenses. Despite this guesswork, I expect we will end the year at or very close to budget, both for receipts and disbursements. The figures below compare the budget for 2004 and proposed budget for 2005.

<u>2004</u>		<u>2005</u>
\$147,000	Receipts	\$153,200
\$146,400	Disbursements	\$152,900
\$129,090	Pledges	\$136,500

Pledges make up approximately 92 percent of the total income received. The remainder is in Open Plate, Flowers, Altar and other designated funds. The Pledges for next year represent a five (5) percent increase over 2004.

We ask each of you to give prayerful consideration to your Pledge so that we might meet or exceed our budget. If you mail your Pledge Card to the church, please mark the envelope "For Treasurer Only". Pledges are confidential. **We request all Pledge Cards be returned by December 12, 2004.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at church or call me at 630-393-0896.

Bob Wilson
Treasurer

2004 IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, December 4th, 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
Sunday, December 5th Mitten Tree
December 6, 7 and 8 Dominick's Benefit Days
Saturday, December 11th 5:30 PM, Joyful Noises hosted by the Jepsens
Sunday, December 12th Pledges Due, Mitten Tree, Cookie Walk Fundraiser for the Seminary
Sunday, December 19th Vestry Meeting, FISH
December 24th, **Christmas Eve 6:30 PM High Mass, 10:30 PM Solemn High Mass with Incense**
December 25th, **Christmas Day 10 AM High Mass**
Sunday, December 26th 9:30 AM Mass - St. Stephen
Monday, December 27th 7 PM Mass - St. John
Tuesday, December 28th 7 PM Mass - Holy Innocents
Wednesday, December 29th through Friday, December 31st - Father Hines out of the office - no Mass
Saturday, January 1st 10 AM Mass - Feast of the Circumcision

All Saints Anglican Church
(Traditional Episcopal)
Using the
1928 Book of Common Prayer

131 East Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630 783-8280

WEBSITES

www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org
www.anglicanpck.org

Holy Eucharist and Church School
Sundays at 9:30 AM
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
At 10 AM and Wednesdays at 7 PM
The Rev. John A. Hines, Rector
The Rev. Mr. Blair Schultz, Deacon

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH: A parish in the Anglican Province of Christ the King. A nationwide body of traditional Anglican churches dedicated to the Anglo-Catholic Faith and traditional Episcopal liturgy. For more information visit: www.anglicanpck.org or www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org. Tell people about us - there are many fellow Christians out there who are hurting and are feeling both hopeless and lost.

Newsletter Editorial Staff
Fr. Hines
Marcia Wilson
Technical Assistant
Bob Wilson

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or wish to contribute in any way, please contact Fr. Hines or Marcia Wilson.

