



THE SANCTUS

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TRACT CORNER

Year of the Family

As we continue our focus on the Family this year it would be very appropriate to include the wonderful Institution of Marriage within our thoughts. Last month brought us the holiday of “Valentine’s Day” which falls on the 14th of February. Most of us realize that this day has something to do with the Christian Saint named Valentine, but the rest of the story goes unknown.

The story of Valentine takes us back to the year of 270 A.D. and the reign of Claudius II. Claudius II, emperor of Rome, had been a general under Emperor Valerian. When Claudius II succeeded Valerian he continued to exercise his instinct for war. While in conflict with the Gauls, Claudius came to the realization that married men were inferior at warfare due to their personal attachments. Moreover, married men had a tendency to even avoid joining the army in the first place. So to remedy this situation, Claudius II outlawed marriage.

Valentine, or Valentius as he was called, lived in Rome at this time and was outraged at the decree of this warmongering emperor. Valentine refused to follow the decree and set up a safe haven for young people hoping to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. He would marry them in private, and he kept up this courageous enterprise until he was eventually caught, imprisoned, and sentenced to death.

While awaiting his execution, Valentine became friends with the daughter of his jailer. She was a blind girl who showed Valentine kindness during his captivity. Through his faith and through prayer, Valentine cured the girl of her affliction – an act of love even for the daughter of his captor.

Supporters of Valentine would show their love by casting flowers up to the window of his cell. This link between Valentine and flowers would be forever established over the centuries into modern tradition. Nonetheless, Valentine was executed on February 14, 270.

Before he died, he wrote a letter of gratitude to the jailer’s daughter and he signed it, “From your Valentine” – a sentiment also now carried on today and echoed every year on the anniversary of this Saint’s death.

Celebrating St. Valentine’s Day is a tribute to St. Valentine later named ‘Patron of Lovers’. His devotion to God and his commitment to supporting love and marriage set a wonderful example for all of us.

In our society today the Institution of Marriage is increasingly under attack from many fronts. Let us ask for the prayers of Saint Valentine on behalf of all Christians today who seek to uphold the awe, mystery and beauty of the Institution of Marriage. Also, may the Church forever be kept a safe haven for all married couples who are wounded or wearied by the world, and may we do our best to fight against those forces which would see the reduction of this blessing of God unto man and woman.

“O God, who hast so consecrated the state of Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church; Look mercifully upon all thy married servants, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.”

On Keeping Holy Week and Easter

Yes, it is near that time again already! Holy Week and Easter are almost here. This article is meant to educate you a bit on these sacred days so that you may more fully enjoy *and participate* in them.

First of all, throughout the *whole* of the Church year, you are being presented with and led through what is known as the “Paschal Mystery”. Paschal comes from the word “PASCH” – which for the Christian means the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord. During the days of Holy Week, and with Easter, this Mystery is being compressed into one long liturgy – specifically with the days ranging from Maundy Thursday to Holy Saturday.

Actually, Maundy Thursday through Holy Saturday is just one long continuous service – that is why Maundy Thursday and Good Friday do not have the type of formal endings which we are used to seeing at our regular Sunday masses. There is no hard break between the services because they are connected. We are entering intensely into Jesus’ “pasch” - His Passion, His Death, and His Resurrection!

Palm Sunday - This day kicks off the whole week. The main worship of Palm Sunday is of course the Eucharist and the reading of the Passion narrative. But before the Celebration gets under way, crosses made from palm leaves are blessed and distributed to all who are present. These are then carried in a procession either around the inside of the church or outside the building. However it is done, the procession of movement is important in that we are remembering Jesus riding in triumph into the Holy City – coming in peace riding on a donkey. We identify ourselves with the crowd of followers – with both the excitement and the disturbance of the situation.

Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper took place in the evening. So too does our commemoration of it. We gather together to remember with great thankfulness the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin “Maundatum” meaning Great Commandment. The great Commandment that Jesus gave at the Last Supper was that we should love one another in the same way that He loves us. This commandment is sometimes illustrated by the clergy of the parish washing the feet of some of the parishioners – just as Jesus washed the disciples’ feet on this night.

Our celebration of the commemoration of the Last Supper ends with three distinctive actions:

1. The Blessed Sacrament is carried from the main altar to the place where it will rest overnight for use on Good Friday. (Actual celebrations of Holy Communion on Good Friday are not part of our tradition. However, Holy Communion is permitted on that day and so the Sacrament is given in one kind from that consecrated the night before.) The place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept is called the Altar of Repose. It is very special since it represents the garden of Gethsemane where Our Lord went to pray in great tribulation and agony after the Last Supper. We decorate the Altar of Repose with flowers and plants and many candles and votive lights.
2. The High Altar is now stripped. Various decorations are carried from the church. This reminds us that Jesus was stripped of everything before his death. It also foreshadows the humiliation and loneliness which He suffered. During the stripping, penitential psalms are read in a quiet tone by the congregation.

3. This service does not formally end – again, the days from Maundy Thursday through Holy Saturday are one long and continuous service. For Maundy Thursday therefore there is no final blessing or dismissal. The people should leave the building in silence. This reminds us that the disciples forsook Jesus and fled. Some of the congregation may want to stay for a while and pray quietly before the Altar of Repose – “Could ye not watch with me...?” In established parishes a Watch before the Altar of Repose is usually maintained until midnight.

Good Friday – This Liturgy consists of four parts: Ante Communion, the Solemn Prayers, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion.

1. Ante Communion: This is the Ministry of the Word. Opening prayers are said. The Epistle is read. The Passion is read. An address may be given.
2. Solemn Prayers: These are general prayers of intercession for the Church – the Clergy and the People – the World – for those who Suffer – for any Necessity.
3. Veneration of the Cross: This is a very lovely and moving ceremony in which we pay homage to our Crucified Lord and seek to identify as closely as we can with His Suffering and Passion. To help us, the Crucifix is used as our visual aid. Many people like to take this opportunity to kiss or touch the Cross. We should all love the Cross – it is the chosen Instrument used to bring about our salvation. Kissing the Cross is the way to express in deed what we so readily confess in word.
4. Holy Communion: The clergy go to retrieve the Blessed Sacrament from the Altar of Repose and Holy Communion is very simply given in one kind to the people.

Once again – this service also has no formal ending. The people go away in silence.

Holy Saturday – This is always the beginning of the celebration of the great festival of Easter. The Easter Vigil takes place either in the evening, or ideally just before dawn. The resurrection is discovered “early in the morning while it was still dark”.

The Vigil centers on the lighting of the Paschal Candle which represents Christ, “The Light of the World”. This Candle is carried into the dark chapel and people light their own small candles from It. This represents our reception of the Light of Christ into our own lives. An Easter celebration is part of this service and for the first time since the beginning of Lent the “Gloria” is sung. In order to derive the fullest spiritual benefit from this holy season, you should try to plan your time and duties in order to be present at *each one* of the Holy Week services. It makes little sense to appear only for the final act of a great drama – and yet this is what so many people do when they attend only on Easter Day – having missed out on all that has gone before and all that holds equal importance.

MEDITATION

The Wisdom of Fr. Andrew

It is an unthinkable supposition that a life so apparently ordinary and a death so common as our Lord's could have been preached as a Gospel and proclaimed by a few poor peasants and had any weight of witness, unless these men had been transfigured by a living faith. Unlettered men could not have faced the might of Rome and the intellect of Greece, unless they had been upheld by an experience to them so certainly true that no other kind of experience could shake it and bring a reaction of disillusionment.

Again, when one authentic relic of Christ's body would have proved forever that the story of His Resurrection was untrue, it is impossible to suppose that that relic would not have been procured if it had been possible. Every murder trial reveals how difficult it is to get rid of a body, when there is every reason to do so. In the case of our Lord's body, all the actors in the drama wished to produce it: His friends to pay it honour, His enemies as a proof that He had not risen. There can be no explanation of the empty tomb except that the Church's faith in the Resurrection is true.

"Easter Day" in *Meditations for Every Day*.
Submitted By Deacon Blair Schultz

QUIET, PLEASE !!!

We are most fortunate to have such a friendly parish! Before each Sunday Mass it is easy to find parishioners chatting with each other and sharing greetings. We do not want this friendliness to diminish, but we must be careful of how we go about it. Unfortunately, with limited space in our building, conversations can easily spill into the chapel area where people are trying to say some preparatory prayers before Mass. Please try therefore to keep voices low and distant prior to Mass. A good rule of thumb is that once the candles are lit (ten minutes or so before the service begins) you should be finding your way into a seat and beginning your own reverential silence. ...*In the words of St. Julian of Norwich, "We should all feel at home with God, but not so at home as to leave courtesy behind"*.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Circle your calendar, Sunday, April 3 – a Special Parish Meeting after Mass to review the plans made by the Vestry to complete the Nave and to reconstruct the parking lot. Moving forward on these major projects has been the primary emphasis of the Vestry since the Annual Meeting, and with the active support of the parish, these projects can be initiated and completed.

The ceilings in the Narthex and main hallways will be refurbished, based upon the plan to be approved by the Vestry at its March 13 meeting. These ceilings have needed attention for some time and should be taken care of as we anticipate the completion of the Nave. The Junior Warden, Donnie Marini, is in charge of this project.

Thanks to the efforts of the Chair, Ron Waitek, and ACM volunteers, the traditional "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" was a successful and enjoyable evening, with proceeds to the Parish Building Fund.

Our sincere thanks to Ken Johnson, who donated a large quantity of merchandise for the 2005 Flea Market. Thanks to those who worked on Saturday, February 26, to bring everything from Ken's home to the church: Chris and Bob Oschman, Chuck Bolton, Chuck Carr, Chris Hall, Mark Maute, Phil Ross, Will Spencer, Ron Waitek and Bob Wilson.

With the Vestry's approval at its February 20 meeting, Will Spencer has taken care of having a new hot water heater installed in the Undercroft. At last – hot water in the washrooms and in the kitchen for cleaning up after Sunday coffee hour and other parish events.

The Vestry elected the following as our Lay Delegates to the 2005 Synod of the Diocese of the Eastern States: Chuck Carr, Will Spencer and Bill Jepson. Also attending will be: Marie Spencer, Diocesan ACW Treasurer; Wayne Holman; and of course, Father Hines and Deacon Schultz. The 2005 Synod will be held April 21-23 in Coventry, Connecticut, hosted by the Anglican Church of the Ascension. A full report on the 2005 Synod will be provided to the parish.

Marie Spencer has retired as Directress of the Altar Guild. With the Rector's approval, the responsibilities have been placed in the capable hands of Chris Hall. We have an outstanding Altar Guild, thanks to Marie's leadership and dedicated efforts. She has our gratitude and respect.

You will want to note the special services available in March. We are indebted to Father Hines and Deacon Schultz for giving us these opportunities to understand and experience the meaning of Lent and to prepare for Easter.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ACW met on February 13. We had a good turn out with a lot of discussion and input from everyone.

Sue Stines presented a Shawl Ministry program to our group. The purpose is to knit or crochet shawls, blankets or scarves that will comfort people who are very ill or undergoing medical procedures. This is an outreach project that even those of us who don't knit or crochet can participate in. Others will teach or help us, and if you don't feel you can knit or crochet, there are other things you can do. Most importantly, it will be a wonderful way for us to get together to pray and to know each other better.

Sue has organized two groups. The day group will meet at 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at church, and the evening group will meet at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Monday, place to be announced. We would love to have you join us on Wednesday, March 2 and/or Monday, March 14. If you have any questions, please call Sue at 630-844-5726.

We thank Karen and Ron Waitek for hosting the Joyful Noises Super Bowl Party, which added \$110 to the Building Fund. They will also host our next Joyful Noises in their new home sometime in April or May.

Chris Hall has organized the following dates for our Jewel Shop and Share Days: April 4, 5 and 6; June 27, 28 and 29; and December 12, 13 and 14. Our Dominick's Benefit Days are scheduled for May 23, 24 and 25, August 22, 23 and 24 and October 24, 25 and 26. Coupons will be available in the Narthex or can be cut out of the Newsletter. We will make the coupons readily available, and we hope you will all participate in this fundraising effort.

Our next ACW meeting will be Sunday, April 10. We will not meet during March.

Barbara Jepson
President

ANGLICAN CHURCH MEN

The ACM kicked off its 2005 Calendar of Events with our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. The record for number of pancakes eaten did not fall this year, but all who attended enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship. The ACM membership is excited about 2005 and is once again ready to lend their time, talent and skill in support of ACM and ACW scheduled events.

A reminder that the ACM host a monthly Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month, and all are welcome.

The beginning of a new year is always exciting, an opportunity to take a retrospective look at the year ended and to make amendments for the upcoming year. As we are now in the midst of Lent, we should take a similar retrospective look at our spiritual well-being, and refocus our efforts on being the best Christians we can possibly be. We at All Saints Church are blessed with a community of parishioners dedicated to the growth and future well-being of our chosen place of worship and the traditions of our faith.

Donnie Marini,
Junior Warden & ACM President

ALTAR GUILD

I recently received the compliment of being offered the position of Altar Guild Directress and nobody was more surprised than I. We at All Saints have a well established and harmonious Altar Guild thanks to the dedication and organizational skills of Marie Spencer. My thanks go to Fr. Hines and Marie for entrusting me with this position.

If you are one of our palm cross experts, or if you are interested in being taught by the best, please let me know when you are available the week of March 6 during the day to meet at the church and make the many palm crosses needed for Palm Sunday. The more the merrier.

Chris Hall
Altar Guild Directress

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING PLANNED FOR EARLY APRIL

Please mark your calendars to be present at a special parish meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 3rd. This will be an informational presentation concerning the major projects of completing the inside of the Nave and re-constructing the parking lot. The meeting will take place immediately following the Sunday service.

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

Your assistance is needed to keep our newsletter mailing list current. Please fill out the enclosed card and return it by March 20. Thanks for your cooperation!

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.

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

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.

MARCH 2005 IMPORTANT DATES

March 13 – Passion Sunday
Vestry Meeting
March 20 – Palm Sunday
March 22 – Holy Tuesday Low Mass 10 AM
March 23 – Holy Wednesday Stations of the Cross
& Low Mass 6:30 PM
March 24 – Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM
Special collection for benefit of Altar Guild
March 25 – Good Friday Service 7 PM
March 26 – Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 5 PM
March 27 – Easter Day! Mass at 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM
(no Sunday School)
March 29 – Easter Tuesday Low Mass 10 AM
March 30 – Easter Wednesday Low Mass 7 PM
March 31 – Easter Thursday Low Mass 10 AM

