



THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



VOLUME III ISSUE X

DECEMBER 2005

TRACT CORNER

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

“Cleanse our hearts and our consciences we beseech Thee, O Lord; that Thy Son, when He comes, may find within us a place suitable for Him to dwell.”

As we wait to receive of the joy which comes to us with Christmas Day, let us first prepare ourselves so that we might receive as much joy as possible.

Christmas is indeed near, but in the meantime the Church has put Advent at our disposal. The observance of Advent as a preparatory season for Christmas started in Rome in the early centuries. In many areas it was used as a time of penance, with strict fasts and vestments of purple (the color of penance) exactly like Lent. It was to help the faithful make themselves ready for the arrival of their Savior and King.

In the record of the first Christmas day, we read that there was “no room” for the Holy Child. As Christians, we never want this situation to re-occur. Advent is the time allotted to us so that we might make room for Him. During the next few weeks we will have the time to “clean house” – to clean out our consciences and make ready our hearts so that our Lord will have more room to come and make His abode in our lives. The more we clean ourselves from any worldly distractions and from sin, the more available we will be for His glorious entry.

The greatest gift we can give to ourselves this Christmas will be to allow Christ more fully into our lives, our homes and workplaces. This gift will take some sacrifice on our part, but this gift is surely worth it!

“Cleanse our hearts and our consciences we beseech Thee, O Lord; that Thy Son, when He comes, may find within us a place suitable for Him to dwell.”

THE ADVENT WREATH

During Advent our parish will have its path to Christmas lit with the traditional Advent Wreath. The custom of the Advent Wreath originated among Lutherans in Germany in the 16th century and quickly became popular in other areas. Along with the Christmas tree, it is probably an example of Christianizing practices popular from pre-Christian times. There had always been a festival of burning special lights and fire at the end of November and beginning of December in Germanic lands as the darkness of winter became more severe. This tradition continued into modern times. In the 1500s, it took on a distinct Christian symbolism as the Advent Wreath, first among Lutherans in eastern Germany and then among all German protestants and catholics. This tradition then came to America with the German immigrants.

The Advent Wreath, which may be of any size, is made of evergreens. The circle of evergreens symbolizes the ever-continuous life of the Trinity. There are four candles, one for each week of Advent. The color of three of the candles is usually violet/purple – this is the traditional color for Advent as it is a time of penitence and preparation. One of the four candles is traditionally rose – used on the Third Sunday of Advent, originally called Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday from the first word of the introit for the Mass. In some parishes, Gaudete Sunday is used for a small break from the traditional Advent disciplines.

Wreaths have always been symbolic of victory and glory. The basic symbolism of the Advent Wreath goes beyond this. It lies in the tension between darkness and light. It represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming at each Eucharist.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

We will usher in the season at the Parish Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3, at Lilli and Andy Longinow's in Oak Park. If you have not signed up, give them a call at (708) 848-1043.

The ACW Salad Luncheon to make our observance of "All Saints' Day" on November 13 was a great success, thanks to the participation of so many parish families and to those who took care of the behind-the-scenes work before and after.

Pledge Sunday is December 4, and our Treasurer, Bob Wilson, will review the Parish Budget for 2006 on behalf of your Vestry. We ask that Pledge Cards be returned by Christmas so a final report on our financial picture for next year can be given at the Annual Meeting in January. You will want to note the Treasurer's Report in this issue of the Newsletter which provides information on the expenses for the major projects that have been successfully completed in 2005.

Necessary work on the building continues with the installation of new gutters on the south side, hand rails and a new window well at the rear entrance are forthcoming. Thanks to Will Spencer who has taken care of a multitude of items that have been required to put our building in proper order. All of the lettering on our main sign on Boughton Road is being replaced. The Vestry has employed Cutting Edge Graphics, Naperville, to handle this necessary task at a cost of \$940.

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Sunday, December 18, and there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Christmas flowers for those who wish to contribute. Note the schedule in this issue for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and the Masses that Father will offer on the three days after Christmas (times to be announced). It's good to know that Deacon Blair Schultz will be home from the Seminary for about five weeks and will share the holiday season with us.

Let us hope that we will be able to keep the meaning of this Holy Season in our hearts and minds in the months ahead and that 2006 will be a good year for All Saints and for all the parish family.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

On April 3, 2005, a special parish meeting was held to report on a series of projects approved by the Vestry for completion in 2005. Included were interior projects of new pews, tile and carpets for the Nave as well as redesign and reconstruction of the parking lot. In September the Vestry approved the major landscaping project.

All the projects have been completed and are paid in full! Below is a breakdown of the cost for each phase of the work:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Interior Projects: | \$ 29,788.77 |
| Parking Lot: | \$ 124,830.71 |
| Landscaping: | \$ 22,740.00 |
| Total | \$ 177,359.48 |

Thanks to all those parishioners who volunteered to see that all the steps were taken to insure the final results. Thanks also to those who have pledged their financial support to repay the \$150,000 we borrowed to finance the projects.

As we enter the final month of this year, I would like to remind all who made pledges to please review your contributions to date so that by December 31 all pledges will be fulfilled. If you have questions regarding your pledge, please feel free to contact me after church services or at home (630-393-0896).

Bob Wilson
Treasurer

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

Our parish celebrates this Christmastime along with two brand new churches and a brand new mission in our Diocese. We send our welcome and Christmas greetings to All Souls Anglican Mission in Schylerville, New York; to St. Anne's Anglican Church in Canton, Ohio; and to St. Mark's Anglican Church in Kentucky. May God richly bless our brothers and sisters. They have our prayers and support!

PARISH WEBSITE

Our parish website (www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org) has been updated and made "more user friendly". Please visit the website for information about our parish, special mass schedules and activities. Thanks to Jim Lipsey for sharing his expertise in designing and improving our website.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

We celebrated All Saints Day with a luncheon on November 13 and about 45 people attended. We enjoyed delicious salads and good company. Thanks to all of you who made the wonderful salads for this special day.

If you haven't already seen our "Mitten Tree", look for it in the Narthex. It will be there through Sunday, December 11. On Monday, December 12, the mittens will be taken to the DuPage Township office in Bolingbrook. The Township stays in touch with local schools and teachers, and the mittens are given to needy children in the area. If you have any questions, please contact Libby Bolton, Chairman.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to bring cookies for our "Cookie Walk" on Sunday, December 11. Last year the cookies were not only delicious, but beautiful. This is a wonderful way to have a lovely assortment of cookies during the holidays without baking a lot of varieties yourself. Remember to invite your friends to come and purchase cookies, too. They should be told to arrive about 10:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Munsie.

Our ACW will receive 5% of your purchase at any Jewel/Osco store on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12, 13 and 14 during our Jewel Shop and Share Days. Please pick up a coupon at church or cut it out of this Newsletter.

This year's Parish Christmas Party will be hosted by Lilli and Andy Longinow. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. If you missed the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please call Lilli at 708-848-1043. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. We will have an "Ornament Exchange" and "Special Guest Appearances".

Because of the Cookie Walk, we will not meet during December. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 8, 2006. This will be our annual meeting with the election of officers. The slate of officers is as follows: President – Sue Stines, Vice President – Jane Munsie, Secretary – Chris Oschman, and Treasurer – Lilli Longinow. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to me or any of our new officers.

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
ACW President

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On Saturday, November 19, the Youth Group gathered at the church at 7 AM so that they could help pass out Thanksgiving Day baskets to the needy in conjunction with Bolingbrook FISH. Not all the youth were able to attend, but all were there in spirit. Lita and Bruno Petersons, Kenny, Taiwo and Yewande Adebowale, and Natalie Hall are all to be commended for their charitable service. This is just one of many charitable outreach projects which the Youth Group will be involved in for the year ahead.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thank you to everyone who gave donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Again this year we were able to provide Thanksgiving dinner for five needy Bolingbrook families. A total of \$500.00 was given and we divided the monies equally for each family. We were able to provide the dinners, including turkeys and special treats. We also purchased many stock-up items such as flour, sugar, and canned foods.

Thank you to Kim Solomon, Alexandra Solomon and Will Spencer for helping with the shopping. Last, but not least, thank you to the six members of the youth group and Fr. Hines for arriving at our church at 7 AM on a Saturday morning to take the baskets to the First Baptist Church for distribution. They then stayed for three hours to again carry the bags and boxes of food (not only from our church but other churches, corporations and individuals) to the vehicles of the recipients.

Please continue to remember the needy throughout the year and bring your food donations for FISH to our church at any time. If you are 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

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

December Dates to Remember

December 3

Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM
Parish Christmas Party, 6:00 PM,
hosted by Lilli & Andy Longinow

December 4, Advent II

Mitten Tree
No Enquirer's Class
Sunday School Enrollment, 8:45-9:15 AM
Pledge Sunday

December 6

Youth Group Meeting, 7:00 PM

December 11, Advent III

Mitten Tree
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM

December 12, 13 & 14

Jewel Shop & Share

December 18, Advent IV

Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM
Vestry Meeting
FISH

December 24, Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist, 6:30 PM
Solemn Sung Eucharist, 10:30 PM

December 25, Christmas Day

Solemn Sung Eucharist, 9:30 AM
No Enquirer's Class
No Sunday School

December 29 & 30

Parish Office Closed

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.

January Dates to Remember

January 1, Circumcision of Our Lord

Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM

January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord

Mass 10:00 AM

January 7

Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM

January 8, First Sunday after Epiphany

Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM

ACM & ACW Meetings

January 15, Epiphany II

Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM

Vestry Meeting

FISH

January 22, Epiphany III

No Enquirer's Class

Parish Annual Meeting

January 29, Epiphany IV

Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM

