



THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



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TRACT CORNER

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Let us make the resolution to identify ourselves more fully with He Who has fully identified Himself with us!

The secular new year has been kicked off by the Church celebrating a mass for the Feast Day of our Lord's Circumcision. According to the Gospel of Luke: *"Eight days later the time came to circumcise Him, and He was given the name of Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was circumcised."*

To many it might be puzzling why the Church has chosen to create a Feast Day for this short incident of Our Lord's early life. But, really, its theological implications are quite important when it comes to our salvation.

First, I want to touch on the part of Scripture which says *"He was given the name of Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was circumcised."* In this passage we are having it pointed out to us that Jesus was not given His name by Mary and Joseph, but rather from an angel – and the angel was acting as messenger of God Himself. This is noteworthy because it is telling us that, even before His birth into the world, Our Lord belonged to God the Father - *"I come from the Father, and I will return to the Father."* (Mttw. xii.44) God the Father, through His messenger the angel, is the One who named Jesus and this showed that Jesus was, from the beginning, the "possession" of the eternal Godhead. Jesus was ever under divine authority, rather than under the authority of the world. In the Book of Genesis, we are told that God had Adam give a name unto all the other creatures upon earth. According to Hebrew tradition, what this means is that God was giving Adam *authority and mastery* over all other creatures. If you gave a name to something that meant that you were its ruler and authority. So, from the very beginning of His life, while He was even yet still in the womb, God the Father was the one whom Jesus had His life dedicated unto and the one whom He would serve. Let us note that at our own baptisms, the Church – God's

representative here on earth – gives you your name while pouring the baptismal water upon your head. In other words, at our baptisms God is naming us and thereby becoming our Lord and Master, the One whom we are to dedicate ourselves unto and serve.

"Eight days later the time came to circumcise Him." Circumcision was something prescribed in the Old Testament. It was the rite used to show the sacred covenant between God and His people. According to Hebrew law it was to be done on the eighth day after a Jewish male child's birth in order to bring about his entry into the body of Israel. It is interesting to note here, that mere human birth was not enough to bring a child into the body of God's chosen people; rather, something else had to be done – a new birth, so to speak. *"God said to Abraham, For your part, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation by generation. This is how you shall keep my covenant between myself and you and your descendants after you: circumcise yourselves, every male child among you."* (Gen. xvii. 19) As Our Lord was, of course, a Jewish male child, His holy family made sure to bring Him to the Temple to be circumcised. Circumcision, in itself, presumed that the person receiving was a sinner in need of redemption. And when we witness that Christ Himself was circumcised, what we are being witness unto is the depth He had gone to take the sinners' place. All throughout His earthly Life, from cradle to grave, - including here His humbling Himself to be circumcised, His later demanding to be baptized, and finally with His allowing Himself to be wrongly convicted and crucified – we are witnessing Jesus, the Perfect One, identifying Himself with us sinners and making atonement for our sins.

In this very first act of His humbly identifying Himself with us sinners, we are already seeing a dim suggestion and hint of Calvary. Not even a month old, He was already shedding His blood on our behalf.

In the words of one author: "A Child only eight days old was already beginning the blood-shedding that would fulfill His perfect manhood. The cradle was tinged with crimson, a token of Calvary. The Precious Blood was beginning its long pilgrimage. Within an octave of His

birth, Christ obeyed a law of which He Himself was the Author, a law which was to find its last application in Him. There had been sin in human blood, and now blood was already being poured out to do away with sin. As the East catches at sunset the colors of the West, so does the Circumcision reflect Calvary.

“**M**ust He begin redeeming all at once? Cannot the Cross wait? There will be plenty of time for it. Coming straight from the Father’s arms to the arms of His earthly mother, He is carried in her arms to His first Calvary. Many years later He will be taken from her arms again, after the bruising of the flesh on the Cross, when the Father’s work is done.” (*Life of Christ*, Bp. Fulton Sheen, p. 38)

“**W**ithin an octave of His birth, Christ obeyed a law of which He Himself was the Author, a law which was to find *its last application* in Him.” Jesus has indeed perfectly fulfilled the old Law, but He now calls us His followers unto His new, and greater, Law. No longer is prescribed the circumcision of the flesh for sinful man’s salvation, but now, as His Apostle states, the circumcision of the spirit – “the mortifying of our rebel wills, and the sanctification that comes from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us – that offering of our whole being, body and soul, in disciplined service to God, and dying to all the evil desires which are aroused by the temptations of the world and the flesh...” (*The Eucharistic Year*, Harold Riley, p. 54)

With this new year, let us make the resolution to identify ourselves more fully with He Who has fully identified Himself with us!

AMEN +

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Already so early in the new year we have two wonderful additions to our church building. The first one is the absolutely lovely new set of altar rail kneelers. These kneelers have been donated by Elizabeth and Charles Bolton “unto the glory of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”. They were hand-stitched by Elizabeth Bolton, Chris Oschman and Mark Maute. We are most grateful for the generosity of these parishioners with the giving of their time, talent, and treasure to the greater glory of Almighty God and the beautifying of His dwelling!

The other wonderful gift given unto the church which, since it is in the sacristy will only be noticed by the clergy and the Altar Guild, is what is called a “piscina”. A piscina is a special sink meant for the Altar Guild to use when cleaning the holy vessels of the Mass. Such a gift is extremely appreciated as the things of God’s Holy Altar deserve our most acute attention and respect. We are grateful for the generosity of Will and Marie Spencer for this gift!

Dear Parish Family

In the weeks before I left California to return home, I was listening to the radio. I have to tell you the song “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” has never meant as much to me as it did this year. California is okay and the weather is beautiful, but it’s just not home. And while I am learning interesting and useful things at Seminary, I’m looking forward to the experience being over. I know many of you have asked how long I’m going to be at Seminary. The answer is I don’t know. I know Archbishop Morse would like me to complete the full two-year program. I can understand his reasoning. There is a lot to know about being a priest and you can’t learn it all in one year. Since I am going back to California in a few days, it looks as if I’ll get in at least one year in Seminary. But after that I don’t know what’s going to happen.

Last August when I left home for California I was anxious because I didn’t know what to expect. As I leave now I’m anxious because I do know what to expect. Seminary has been difficult both academically and emotionally. One of the things that has kept me going is your support. So thanks to everyone who has sent me a card or an email, and thank you for your prayers. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you again next May.

Deacon Schultz

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT

Looking back on 2005, we can all be pleased with the accomplishments that were made. As noted in the report you received from our Treasurer, approximately \$177,000 was utilized to: purchase pews, carpeting and floor tile for the Nave; refurbish the ceilings in the Narthex and main hallways; reconstruct the parking lot; landscape the property; and take care of several projects necessary for the proper maintenance of the church building. Thanks to the ACM a new storage shed was installed. Chris Oschman and Jane Munsie are to be congratulated for the successful Flea Market in September that netted \$3,000 for the Building Fund. These things took a great deal of planning and work by our Rector, the Vestry and others who gave their time and effort to complete these projects.

The Christmas tree in the Narthex was a welcome addition – thanks to Dan Brush for setting it up and to Kim Solomon and the pre-school class for the decorations. And, what a pleasure it has been to have our own Deacon Schultz with us again for the holiday season.

On Sunday, January 1, Father Hines blessed the new altar rail kneelers, and the special pamphlet that described the symbolism on each was greatly appreciated. A year in the making by Libby Bolton, Chris Oschman and Mark Maute, these four kneelers are a wonderful addition to the Nave.

In early January, all parish families will receive the mailing of the 2006 Parish Directory. Please check the information provided, and contact us with any corrections or additions by Friday, January 20. The new Directory will be distributed on Sunday, January 29.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the ACM and ACW meetings after Mass on Sunday, January 8. Both groups will elect new officers for 2006 and will discuss basic plans for the year ahead. The ACM and ACW played important roles in the success All Saints enjoyed this past year, and we are indebted to ACM President Donnie Marini and ACW President Barbara Jepson who both served for 2 ½ years.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Undercroft after Mass on Sunday, January 22. This is our most important gathering of the year. In addition to reviewing the 2005 Annual Reports of the Clergy and the Lay Leaders, the Budget for 2006 will be finalized, a final statement for 2005 will be presented, and two important amendments to the Parish Bylaws will be addressed. Also, the Parish will be asked to consider the following for election to the Vestry for three-year terms (2006-2009): Sue Peterson, Will Spencer and Marcia Wilson.

Our Parish Newsletter, "The Sanctus", continues to be effective in keeping all of us informed and up to date. Editor Marcia Wilson does a fine job with the Newsletter, and her work is appreciated. Also, the work of the Altar Guild, the Church School Teachers and the Choir continue to be very important to the life of our Parish.

So, we begin another year for All Saints. We anticipate a first-class celebration of our Tenth Anniversary in the Fall of 2006.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

A fun time was had by all who attended our Parish Christmas Party at Lilli and Andy Longinow's on December 3. The food was delicious and the ornament exchange provided many with beautiful ornaments to mark the occasion. Even Santa made an appearance and passed out cookies! We thank Lilli and Andy for opening their lovely home to us.

The ACW held our second Cookie Walk on December 11. We raised \$315 thanks to the efforts of Chairman

Jane Munsie and all the "bakers" and "buyers" in our parish. Thank you one and all!

Libby Bolton provided the Christmas tree that was overflowing with 89 pairs of handmade or newly purchased mittens. They were taken to the DuPage Township Office who distributes mittens and other warm clothing to needy children in the area. Many little fingers are being kept warm due to the generosity of our wonderful parish family. Thank you, Libby, for heading up this worthwhile outreach project.

Our next ACW meeting will be held Sunday, January 8, when we will elect officers. The proposed slate of officers is as follows: President, Sue Ross; Vice-President, Jane Munsie; Secretary, Chris Oschman; Treasurer, Lilli Longinow.

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

As this is my last newsletter article as president of the ACW, I want to thank the entire parish for your help and support over the past 2½ years. You have made this job both fun and easy. Thank you!

Barbara Jepson
President

ALL SAINTS CHURCH YOUTH

Yes! We have a new name. The vote was unanimous. All Saints Church Youth have many great ideas to serve the Lord in the new year. We plan to send cards to members of the parish and their acquaintances to let them know we are thinking and praying for them. We will visit a nursing home and perhaps adopt an elderly person to celebrate birthdays, holidays and his or her life in general. We will formulate a youth directory for staying in touch with each other.

Each meeting we pray for needs of the parish, learn valuable Biblical lessons, try a food that Jesus might have eaten and participate in a fun activity. This December Father Hines taught us two tunes, one each for the Old and New Testament books, so that we learned all of them in order as they appear in the Bible. Taiwo Adebowale won first prize, a computer Bible, for her flawless performance. Kenny Adebowale earned a lapel pin, and Yewande Adebowale and Natalie Hall also gave commendable recitations.

We look forward to a blessed new year and to being blessings to God, the parish and each other.

Dan and Fabi Brush
Youth Leaders

MITTEN TREE

Many thanks to all of you who so generously contributed to the Mitten Tree outreach project of the ACW! It was a huge success as 89 pairs of mittens and gloves were delivered to needy school children in the area just before their Christmas vacation. Last year 52 pairs of mittens and gloves were donated, thus we are greatly pleased with your support and response this year.

Libby Bolton
Chairman

COOKIE WALK

Many, many thanks to all those who participated in our cookie walk – the cookies were beautiful and delicious. Everyone who purchased a container enjoyed filling it with an assortment of their own choosing. We raised \$315 for our ACW treasury! We look forward to making this an annual event.

Jane Munsie
Chairman

Dates to Remember

January 3, All Saints Church Youth Meeting 7 PM
January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord, Mass 7 PM
January 7, Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM
January 8, First Sunday after Epiphany,
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM,
ACM and ACW Meetings
January 15, Epiphany II
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM
Goodbye to our beloved Deacon Schultz!
Vestry Meeting
F I S H
January 17, All Saints Church Youth Meeting 7 PM
January 22, Epiphany III
No Enquirer's Class
Parish Annual Meeting
January 29, Epiphany IV
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM
February 4, Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM

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.

