



# THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



VOLUME IV ISSUE III

MARCH 2006

## TRACT CORNER

(The following tract/pamphlet is available in the Narthex along with many others.)

Lent is a particularly good time for Christians to make their confession as part of their preparation for Easter. The following write-up is a good overview of this very comforting and important Sacrament. If you would like to make a confession, simply call the parish office and set up a time with Father Hines (630-783-8280).

### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

What is most important about going to confession? Is it examining our conscience and preparing a list of our sins since our last confession? Is it telling our sins to the priest and saying our act of contrition? Or is it receiving the absolution of the Church and doing our penance?

Certainly all these are important, but I like to think of confession as a movement toward a deeper encounter with Christ – an encounter in which *our misery* meets *His mercy*. We do this by reflecting, repenting, receiving, and responding.

#### **Reflect...**

In preparing for this encounter with Christ we need to call upon the Holy Spirit, asking Him to show us our sins – to “convict” us of our sins (Jn 16:8).

Why does the Holy Spirit convict us of sin? To make us feel guilty? No. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin so that we can see ourselves as we really are, recognizing the depth of our sinfulness, our weakness, and our need for God’s mercy.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to do this, we discover what sin is. Sin is simply a turning away from God. It doesn’t change God or diminish His love for us. It separates us from Him.

If I turn away from the light of the sun and enter a cave, I place myself in darkness. The sun hasn’t changed, and its light is still available to me. All I have to do is come out of the cave.

In the same way, when I turn away from God and enter the cave of my self-oriented concerns and desires, I place myself in sin. God hasn’t changed; His love and forgiveness are always available. I simply need to come back into His presence.

Before going to confession, we need to do more than simply come up with a quick “grocery list” of sins. We need to spend time in prayer and reflection, asking and allowing the Holy Spirit to walk us through our various sins, so that we can clearly see all the ways in which we have turned away from God - not so that we will become depressed - but so that, in the confessional, we can come before God as we really are, convinced of our need for His mercy and longing to receive it.

Our confession becomes especially fruitful if we can first recognize and then verbalize to the priest the area of our lives where we need mercy the most.

#### **Repent...**

Having revealed to us the ways in which we have turned away from God, the Holy Spirit now invites us to turn back. This turning back is called “repentance.”

In the confessional, aware of our sinfulness, we turn back to God through His representative, the priest, *as we really are*. Nothing hidden, no excuses, fully exposed to the view of God.

In our sinfulness, we ask for forgiveness. In our sickness, we ask for healing. In our weakness we ask for strength. In our misery, we ask for mercy. We stand before God empty, humble, and repentant, determined to amend our lives and resolved to make reparation and do penance.

And we don’t do all this in a spirit of sadness. We do it in a spirit of anticipated joy. We are bringing to God our misery, and we are receiving in turn His mercy.

### Receive...

This is the heart of the Sacrament. We have brought ourselves “warts and all” unto Almighty God. His response to us is always one of mercy.

Often labeled the “Sacrament of Reconciliation”, in the confessional we receive mercy and we also receive a fuller relationship with God. Things have been reconciled – with God, with our fellow man, and within our very selves.

### Respond...

We do not receive this gift of mercy just for ourselves. Having received it, we are supposed to give it away. God wants to fill us with so much mercy that it will overflow from us to others.

This outpouring of God’s mercy to others is not an optional response. It’s a requirement.

“Give freely what you have received as a gift” (Mt. 10:8)... “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 13:34)... “Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Lk 6:36).

As we go to exercise mercy now unto others, we become the “ambassadors of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:20) we are called to be. Instruments of God in a world so needful of mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

*The following list may be helpful in examining, under the light of the Holy Spirit, possible sins in your life.*

#### SINS OF COMMISSION

##### **(Sins against the Ten Commandments):**

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no gods but Me.
2. You shall not make any graven image, nor worship them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Keep holy the Sabbath Day.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

#### SINS OF OMISSION

Omitting to love one another as Jesus loves us (Jn 15:12).  
Omitting to be merciful as the Father is merciful (Lk 6:36).

Omitting to forgive another as we are forgiven (Mt. 6:14-15).

#### SINS OF WASTE

Waste of graces  
Waste of talents  
Waste of suffering

\*The Father chose the way of suffering for His Son Jesus to bring forgiveness and mercy to all mankind. He has asked us to make use of our suffering, uniting it to Christ’s (See Phil. 1:29; Col. 1:24; Lk 9:23)

Resource used:

Reconciliation, by Fr. George Kosicki, CSB

## LENT

On Wednesday, March 1, we and all Christians everywhere will be marked with ashes in the sign of the cross – “Remember O man that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return.” These startling words and ritual are meant to awaken us to deeper realities: the reality of our sinfulness, and the reality of our need for mercy and salvation.

During Lent, we will embark on the internal journey of our souls. If we have been faithful Christians throughout the year, we may find our souls to be a flourishing place filled with the good things which we have allowed God to give unto us – and, having tasted of the sweet things, we will inevitably desire more! Most of us, however, will find that we have allowed ourselves to become spiritually dry and barren – a desert in need of refreshment. It will be in this desert that we are called to imitate Jesus: to fast, to pray, to confront and overcome evil and temptation in our lives.

Although this spiritual passage into the desert can be painful and difficult, it reminds us that Jesus is the only One who can quench our thirst. Many times we seek material possessions and different types of activities in the hope that our thirst will be satisfied. The truth of the matter is that we are left spiritually dehydrated and still thirsting, for only God can quench the soul’s thirst: My soul *thirsts* for God, for the living God (Psalm 42:2).

As we make our necessary journey through the dry and barren places of our lives this Lent, let us remember that we indeed have a destination. We are not making this journey for the journey’s sake, we are doing this so that we might go to Him who can quench our thirst - “whoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13-14). Let us keep our eyes upon the goal. That will make our journey all the more special and worthwhile.

May God bless all of us during this special time +  
Father Hines

## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

On Sunday, February 26, thirty parishioners gathered at Chuck and Janis Semaan's in Romeoville for the blessing of their home by Father Hines, followed by a luncheon. Thanks to Janis and Chuck for opening their new home to all of us for this very special event.

The first Morning Prayer service for 2006 was followed by a complimentary breakfast. This was so well received it was agreed that breakfast will be served after each Morning Prayer service held at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month through November.

The traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Anglican Church Men, was an enjoyable event with donations benefiting the ACM treasury. As always, Ron Waitek did a fine job organizing the evening and taking care of food preparation.

With the formal beginning of the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday, you will want to plan to attend Stations of the Cross and Mass that will be offered each Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM.

The Membership Development Committee began its work in February and will focus on the parish website, parish membership in area Chambers of Commerce and other avenues available to call attention to All Saints. The Committee is composed of Carol O'Sullivan, Dan Brush, Jim Lipsey and Marcia Wilson as Chair. We look forward to the recommendations that will come from this special committee.

We have held three consecutive Flea Markets since moving to Bolingbrook, and the Vestry needs to make a decision on whether or not this should be attempted again in 2006. Shortly, every parish family will receive a message from the Rector asking you to let us know if you will have merchandise to donate and if you will be available to work during the three days it takes to set up, run and clean up a flea market. A decision needs to be made by the Vestry in March, so please be candid when responding to the Rector on this subject.

In mid-April, right after Easter, work will begin to complete landscaping and a few other projects related to the building.

We continue to pray for St. Paul's, the mission in Crystal Lake.

Bill Jepson  
Senior Warden

## GOOD SAMARITANS

Last year All Saints began a new ministry by the name of *Good Samaritans*. This outreach is similar to our already existing ACM and ACW groups in that it has President(s) and it has Members. Marie and Will Spencer graciously agreed to be the first presidents of this group, and they have taken on the task of contacting and coordinating the ministry members when certain parishioner needs arise.

Consider being a member of this group. Your membership will involve your simply being able to be counted on when needed. Perhaps a parishioner falls ill and needs help – can you provide a meal for them? If not, can you provide them with some transportation for a doctor's visit? If not, can you give a little of your time to shovel the snow off their driveway? The needs will vary of course, but the main thing is that our parish will have a group of volunteers in place who are ready and willing to meet those needs at any given moment.

If this is something you would like to be a part of, speak with Will or Marie Spencer and they will put you on the "list". Remember, you aren't obligating yourself to do everything, you are just saying that you are always willing to do something – and with the combined effort of a few, we will be sure to meet the needs of many.

The priest, as the spiritual leader of the parish, will ultimately determine what should and should not be done. With our parish growing, requests for help have grown as well, and this outreach will enable us to come to peoples' aid more responsively. *Good Samaritans* is merely a more formalized way of doing what we have always done – seeking to love and care for one another.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

February Income	\$ 13,377
February Expenses	\$ 11,058
Difference	\$ 2,319

Year to Date Income	\$ 26,286
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 22,664
Difference	\$ 3,622

Mortgage Balance	\$102,554
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Bob Wilson  
Treasurer

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH LIBRARY

Have you browsed in the library recently? Please do! While I will be available for questions, and would enjoy a conversation with anyone about the books in the library, I think everyone prefers to choose books without an audience. The procedures for "self check out" are posted on the counter in the library. They are included in this newsletter so that everyone can become acquainted with them.

### **Check Out Procedure:**

1. Sign the white book card in the back of the book in the book pocket with your FULL NAME and PHONE NUMBER.
2. Stamp the card with the due date, which is three weeks from Sunday. (See calendar.)  
(The due date will be about **3 weeks** from the check out date and will always be on a Sunday.) Please return the library materials by that date.
3. Place the white book card in the black 3"x 5" file box marked "Book Cards".
4. Take a white "Due Date" card from the white 3"x 5" file box marked "Due Date Slips".
5. Stamp it with the same date you indicated on the book card.
6. Place it in the book pocket in the back of the book.

**Note:** Books may be renewed if no one has requested the book. You will be notified by telephone or email if there is a request for the material you have checked out or if the book is overdue.

### **Return Procedure:**

Please place returned materials in the "RETURNS" box on the counter, do not re-shelve the books.

Again, I will be available for questions or conversation, but believe self checkout provides the opportunity for borrowers to check out an item at their convenience. Please let me know if any points need clarification or if you have any questions.

Sue Peterson  
Church Librarian

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH YOUTH

Upon publication of this newsletter, we will have enjoyed the fun and exhilarating activity of ice skating at Seven Bridges Rink on Saturday, February 25. We're praying for no broken bones, and not too many bruises!

We have begun to study *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis and are finding it informative and enlightening. We have also discussed the upcoming season of Lent and its various services and traditions. Because of Lent's somber and introspective nature, we have postponed our ballroom dancing lessons until the last two Saturdays in May. We again extend an invitation to any of the congregation who may wish to join us. Further information will be forthcoming.

We sampled pistachio nuts and artichokes as two foods Jesus might have eaten. We continue to pray for the sick, for those in harm's way and for needs in general of our acquaintances and families.

Dan and Fabi Brush  
Youth Leaders

## ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ACW had a very successful "Soup Luncheon" and session working on Angel Comfort Wraps on February 11. About fifteen women were in attendance as well as Father Hines. Father prayed with us and again anointed our hands. The soup was delicious, the bread great and the dessert wonderful! Thanks to all the hands that helped! We decided because of our "in church" stock of wraps, we would investigate and donate to area nursing homes. If anyone has a preference or hears of an individual need, please let us know!

Our next meeting will be after Mass on March 12. We hope all women of the parish will plan to attend.

Sue Ross  
ACW President

## ANGLICAN CHURCH MEN

All men are invited to the ACM meeting on March 12, following Mass, for fellowship and to help plan our activities for this year. We are finalizing plans for the Family Golf Tournament on June 17 at River Bend Golf Course. This is for all golfers (both seasoned and not) and families, with dinner to follow the tournament. Other events are being planned by the ACM, so please join us and participate.

Phil Ross  
ACM President

**Dates to Remember**

Wednesday, March 1  
Ash Wednesday Mass, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 4  
Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM, followed by  
breakfast and fellowship

Sunday, March 5  
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM  
Membership Development Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 8  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM  
Mass, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 12  
Enquirer's Class, 8:30 AM  
ACM and ACW Meetings

Tuesday, March 14  
All Saints Youth Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 15  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM  
Mass, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 19  
Vestry Meeting  
FISH

Wednesday, March 22  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM  
Mass, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 28  
All Saints Youth Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 29  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM  
Mass, 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 1  
Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM, followed by  
breakfast and fellowship

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](http://www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org)  
[www.anglicanpck.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.anglicanpck.org) or [www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org](http://www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org). Tell people about us – there are many fellow Christians out there who are hurting and are feeling both hopeless and lost.**