



THE SANCTUS

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TRACT CORNER

ICONS

We at All Saints are fortunate to have a few examples of religious art called icons. The dictionary definition of an icon is “a religious image typically painted on a small wooden panel and used in the devotions of Eastern Christians.” This is a simple definition and doesn’t begin to explain what an icon is. Jim Forest, in his book *Praying With Icons*, wrote, “No less than the written word, an icon is an instrument for the transmission of Christian tradition and faith. Through sacred imagery, the Holy Spirit speaks to us, revealing truths that may not be evident to those using only the tools of reason.

“Icons are an aid to worship. Wherever an icon is set, that place more easily becomes an area of prayer. The icon is not an end in itself but assists us in going beyond what can be seen with our physical eyes into the realm of mystical experience.

“The icon...is concerned solely with the sacred. Through line and color, the iconographer seeks to convey the awesomeness of the invisible and divine reality and to lead the viewer to a consciousness of the divine presence. The icon is theology written in images and color.

“The icon is a work of tradition...the icon is more than the personal meditation of an individual artist, but the fruit of many generations of believers uniting us to the witnesses of the Resurrection.

“The icon is not intended to force an emotional response. In portraying moments of biblical history, the faces of participants in the scene are rarely expressive of their feelings...but suggest virtues—purity, patience in suffering, forgiveness, compassion and love.

“Icons guard against over-familiarity with the divine. For example, a Savior icon is not merely a sentimental painting of ‘our dear friend Jesus’ but portrays both his divinity as well as his manhood, his absolute demands on us as well as his infinite mercy.”

Henri Nouwen in *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*, wrote, “Icons [are] created for the sole purpose of offering access, through the gate of the visible, to the mystery of the invisible. Icons are painted to lead us into the inner room of prayer and bring us close to the heart of God...icons try to give us a glimpse of heaven.”

Two of our icons are located in the Chapel. The icon in the alcove farthest away from the altar is an icon of Jesus. The title of this icon is *Pantocrator*. This word from the Greek means “Almighty.” In this icon “the Savior has a serious and intent expression, with both His human and Divine nature looking out at us, as the King of All beholding His people.” As Jim Forest writes, in this icon we come face to face with Jesus as who He really is—“Son of God, Savior, God incarnate, whose touch or word heals the blind, raises the dead, and drives out demons.” In the icon, Christ’s right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing to remind us that, “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17). In Christ’s left hand there is a Gospel book, a reminder that we find Christ in His words.

The original icon (from the 6th Century) is one of the earliest ones in existence. It can be found at St. Catherine’s Monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai. The icon reminds us of the words from the *Te Deum*: “Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.”

The icon in the alcove nearest the altar is an icon of Jesus and Mary. This form of icon is referred to as *Theotokos* “Hodegetria.” *Theotokos* is a Greek word that means “one who gave birth to God.” This is a title for Mary, which was approved by the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D. “Hodegetria” is a Greek word which means guide, or directress, or indication of the way. In this icon, Mary is guiding our path to God by her indication of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is shown by the inclination of Mary’s head and the position of her hand. In the icon, Mary looks at us, but she tilts her head to Jesus and points to Him; as if to say, “Don’t look at me. Look at Him. He is our Savior.”

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

If you look closely at the icon, you will notice some other features. In the upper left and right corners there are two pairs of two Greek letters each with a small mark above the letters. The small mark indicates that the letters are a contraction. In this case they represent the words "Mother" and "Of God," although they do not exactly correspond to the English equivalents. Near Jesus' shoulder there are also two pairs of two Greek letters each with a mark. The letters IC and XC are contractions for the Greek words for "Jesus" and "Christ," respectively. In the cross in Christ's halo are the Greek letters that spell, "I AM." (One of the letters is hidden in our icon.) "I AM" is what God told Moses to tell Pharaoh when asked who sent him, the Existing One before all ages. Jesus showed His identity with the same God when saying to the Jews, "Before Abraham was, I am" for which they took up stones to stone Him for blasphemy. One other thing you might notice is that Jesus is not shown with a "baby" face. Icons of our Lord as a child always show Him with adult intelligence in His face.

So in this one icon we have a sermon in miniature. The icon tells us that Jesus is God. It tells us that Mary is the "God-bearer" which shows that Jesus is both divine and human. And it shows that when we look to Mary to be an example she points us to Jesus. Thus this icon while Greek Orthodox in origin fits with the Anglo-Catholic teaching of both Jesus and Mary. Another example of this type of icon is found at the end of the hallway leading to the Rector's office.

Father Blair Schultz

References:

Forest, Jim. *Praying With Icons*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1987.

As announced, the Most Reverend James E. Provence, Archbishop, Anglican Province of Christ the King, will be with us on November 2-4. An overview of this official visit is to be found in this issue of "The Sanctus."

The Parish Family Picnic on Sunday, August 26, was a great success thanks to the planning and work of the picnic coordinators, Karen and Ron Waitek and Cynthia and Bill Gelert. Thanks to Mary Odonkor for providing fried chicken and to Sue and Phil Ross and Dan and Fabi Brush for the games.

At its August meeting, the Vestry elected Carol O'Sullivan to complete an unexpired term. Carol has done an outstanding job as Parish Treasurer and has participated in all Vestry meetings since she was appointed in January. Work now begins on the 2008 Parish Operating Budget for presentation to the parish on Pledge Sunday, November 18.

On August 29, two new windows were installed in the west wall of the kitchen area at a cost of \$1,100. The old windows were warped and did not close properly, so replacement was necessary. Funds for this project were available in the Maintenance and Repair line item in the Parish Budget. This is another task that had to be taken care of to maintain our property.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program, in cooperation with Bolingbrook F.I.S.H., will be chaired by Fabi Brush and Chris Oschman. The goal is to provide for six families again this year: The Thanksgiving Basket collection will be held during October, and we hope to raise at least \$700.

If you submitted an order for the Pizza and Dessert Sale, you should know that delivery of the All Saints order will now be late September. By combining our order with two other local groups, the \$150 delivery charge has been eliminated and at least \$400 profit will be ensured. Junior Warden Donnie Marini will contact everyone about the new delivery date within the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone who participated in the sale.

A new Holy Water Font will soon be installed at the entrance of the Nave. As reported, income exceeded expense for the 2007 Synod we hosted in June, and the Vestry put the "profit" into the special Altar Guild Fund. So many worked hard to make the 2007 Synod a success, and we can be pleased that we have been able to purchase something for the benefit of the entire parish.

Sunday School will begin on September 9. We are indebted to those who will teach and take care of the nursery.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

VISIT OF THE ARCHBISHOP ORDINATION WEEKEND

The Most Reverend James E. Provence, Archbishop, Anglican Province of Christ the King, will be at All Saints on November 2-4 for an official visit. Elected Archbishop by the House of Bishops of the Province in June, the focal point of his visit will be the ordination of Robert Wilson as Deacon of the Church. The following schedule for the weekend is planned:

Saturday, November 3:

9:30 AM Rehearsal for the Ordination and Mass
12 Noon Luncheon and Vestry Meeting with the Archbishop at the Jepson's
5:30 PM Wilson Family Dinner

Sunday, November 4:

9:30 AM Rite of Ordination and Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Luncheon for the parish, the Archbishop and guests, hosted by the Anglican Church Women

With the Ordination and Mass, we anticipate a full house for the service and the luncheon afterward in the Undercroft. Invitations to the service and luncheon will be sent to guests and all members of the parish on October 1.

This weekend coincides with our traditional celebration of All Saints Day. The visit of our Archbishop at this time, coupled with Bob Wilson's ordination, will certainly be the highlight of 2007 for our parish.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School teachers Cheryl Nash, Barbara Jepson, Jean Edgerton and Yvette Drayton registered children for Sunday School after mass on August 26. We are fortunate to have such willing and able teachers to lead our children in learning about the Bible and our faith. The nursery will again be cared for by Norma Stafford and Karen Waitek.

Our Sunday School classes begin on Sunday, September 9, after a special blessing by Father Hines. Just before the sermon begins, children and teachers will come to the front of the church for this blessing. Parents of children who go to the nursery may also bring their children to the front to be blessed.

We're looking forward to a great year with good attendance so that a continued learning experience can be accomplished.

Chuck Bolton
Sunday School Administrator

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

It is hard to believe, but summer is at its end and we all are gearing up for fall activities and obligations. A few dates to note and remember:

Sunday, September 9, ACW and ACM meet after mass.
Saturday, October 6, 8:30 AM, Morning Prayer followed by breakfast, fellowship, ACW and ACM meetings and Girls' Day Out.

Future events being planned include a luncheon on Sunday, November 4, celebrating All Saints Day and the Ordination of Bob Wilson and our annual Mitten Tree and Cookie Walk.

Remember, all women in the parish are members of RACW. Please come and join in!

In His Name,
Sue Ross

GIRLS' DAY OUT

Join us for Girls' Day Out on Saturday, October 6th! Following Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM and a light breakfast, we will have our ACW meeting. After the meeting, we will car pool to the new Promenade Shopping Center in Bolingbrook. Following a few hours of shopping and/or browsing, we will drive to Nancy's Tearoom in Downers Grove for lunch at 1:00 PM. (Yes, we have a reservation!)

Please join us for any part of the morning's activities that fits your schedule! If you are joining us for lunch, please let me know by Tuesday, October 2, so I can call Nancy's with our final count.

Details on transportation, parking and menu selections will be available closer to the event.

Jane Munsie
(630-985-320) jamunsie@aol.com

PARISH PICNIC

The picnic, such fun – about fifty in all.

We ate, played games and certainly had a ball. The food, so good – hamburgers, brats and watermelon – oh yes.

With salads and corn – our faces were certainly a mess! Thanks to Mary Odonkor for bringing wonderful rice and chicken.

It was so tasty, and we were all a pickin'.

Dan and Fabi Brush brought the beanbag toss and volleyball – the games were something to see. Most everyone got involved, and it was fun as can be.

Thanks to Sue Ross, the balloon toss was really such fun.

Getting splashed with water happened to almost everyone. Phil Ross was a proud grandpa as his granddaughters came in first place.

Being the winners, no water ended up splashing their face.

The organizers, the Waiteks and Gelerts, together planned it for us.

They said it was their pleasure and certainly no fuss.

So for those who didn't come this year, know that you missed the fun.

Plan to come next year. We hope to see everyone!

Karen and Ron Waitek
Cindy and Bill Gelert
Picnic Coordinators

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.

Dates to Remember

**Saturday, September 1, no Morning Prayer
(cancelled due to the holiday weekend)**

**Sunday, September 9,
Sunday School resumes
ACM and ACW meetings**

**Sunday, September 16,
Vestry Meeting
F I S H**

**Saturday, October 6, 8:30 AM,
Morning Prayer followed by
breakfast and fellowship
ACM and ACW meetings
Girls' Day Out**

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. Blair W. Schultz, Assistant Priest

Newsletter Editorial Staff
Father Hines
Marcia Wilson
Technical Assistant
Bob Wilson

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