



# THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



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## Advent and Christmas Blessings +

The clergy of All Saints want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas, but let us all be careful not to forget the very important season of Advent in the meantime.

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 His Gift is worth every bit!

## The Saints of the Church

When we think of the Saints of the Church, we can form an unrealistic image of them in our minds. We may view them as perfect, spiritually self-confident, possessing an inner strength to resist sin - something we ourselves feel we can never attain. The great Saints of the Church, with their glowing biographies, seem unapproachable.

But the Saints are meant to be people with whom we can identify. We find St. Paul of the New Testament so endearing because he was humble enough to confess his own faults and human failings to his flock. Despite his foibles, God was able to accomplish great things through him. Our Lord told him, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (II Cor. 13:9). The Church teaches us about the lives of those who have fought the good fight and stayed their course, so that we may be encouraged to do the same. The saints we revere the most were people just like you and I. Whatever

their sufferings, or the trying circumstances in which we may find ourselves, God’s promise to us rings true: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God” (Rom. 8:28).

In our own day, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, is one who is regarded as a spiritual giant. Even before she passed away ten years ago, the world placed her upon a pedestal. However, the Vatican recently released a selection of her letters to her spiritual advisers that reveal another, more human, side of her life.

Kenneth Woodward, in his September 8 article in the Wall Street Journal, “A Special Breed of Saint,” shares with us some of the struggles she endured. Mother Teresa spent most of her life on the streets of Calcutta caring for the sick and the poorest of the poor. All the while she was showing them the love of Christ and ministering to them on the Calcutta streets, she felt only a sense of emptiness, devoid of God’s presence. For the last fifty years of her life, according to Woodward, she was “inwardly tortured by the sense that God had abandoned her.”

Mother Teresa confided, “I want to love Jesus as he has never been loved before,” yet she found only “darkness and coldness and emptiness that nothing touches my soul.” The spiritual dryness she experienced is reminiscent of the famous Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross, who expressed a similar emptiness as “the dark night of the soul.” Mother Teresa’s heart’s desire was to live in the presence of God, yet all she felt was God’s absence. This absence was so profound she referred to God as The Absent One.

Our society places a high premium on making decisions based on how we feel. You may hear someone say, “I have fallen out of love with my wife or husband,” or “I no longer feel like supporting this cause or that cause.” The same, too, applies in our relationship with God. Maybe you, like Mother Teresa, are worn down by the sufferings in your life and in the sufferings of the world, and you don’t feel God’s presence or love.

Woodward comments that Mother Teresa did feel Jesus’ loving presence and voice once, but then God withdrew and Jesus was silent for those fifty years.

She had to carry on with the outward expression of her faith, devoid of any emotional consolation. Such a faith was grounded in God's love. Mother Teresa was reassured of that when she bore her heart and soul to a most helpful spiritual confessor, theologian Father Joseph Neuner. Later she wrote, "I came to love the darkness."

**M**aybe you have been misled, as many Christians have, that your faith is dependent on how emotionally charged you are. But this is not the way of the cross. On the cross, Jesus Himself felt abandoned by God when He took on the sins of the world. Despite this feeling of abandonment He persevered, overriding his emotions with the virtues every Christian is called to possess: faith, hope and charity. We are called by God to practice these virtues, even when we don't feel like it. If we persevere with God's help, we will come to know the love and peace of God, which passes all understanding.

**O**ur faith, like Mother Teresa's faith, can be nurtured during our spiritually dry times. Having someone to turn to is a great relief. Christ calls us to His Church that we might lay our burdens down and be comforted by His presence in the Mass and from one another, "That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; being rooted in love." See you in His Church.

*Father Hines+*

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

**D**espite some inclement weather, the Parish Christmas Party on Saturday, December 1 was a great success. Thanks to Carol and Val Petersons for hosting the event again this year.

**T**he Church School Christmas Party will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 8. In addition to enjoying refreshments, games and stories, the children will decorate the Parish Christmas Tree in the Narthex.

**T**he Mitten Tree Collection chaired by Libby Bolton ends on Sunday, December 9. Mittens, gloves and hats from All Saints will be delivered to the DuPage Township office in Bolingbrook for distribution to needy children in the area in cooperation with the local schools. Let's hope we top last year's total of 104 items.

**T**he Annual ACW "Cookie Walk," Jane Munsie, Chair, will be held in the Undercroft after Mass on Sunday, December 9. With the volunteers bringing in six dozen cookies each, a wide variety of Christmas cookies will be available for \$6.00 per container. Proceeds will benefit the ACW.

**J**ewel Shop and Share Days sponsored by our ACW are December 17, 18 and 19. This is a good time to purchase supplies for your Christmas and New Year's meals. Coupons are available in the Narthex. Please share the coupons with family and friends.

**P**lans are being made to refurbish the church washrooms and to install a new sink, cabinets and countertops in the upstairs kitchen area and to determine if it will be feasible to provide a sink in the vault area. The ACW and the ACM have each pledged \$500 for the washroom project, and the ACW will try to provide \$500 for the kitchen-related effort. Bob Oschman has taken on the responsibility for the basic planning and estimates for both areas for the Vestry to review at their December 16 meeting in the hope that work can begin after the holidays.

**A**t its meeting in November, the Vestry approved an expenditure of \$216 to purchase five new tables for the Undercroft. This gives us twelve tables, and coupled with the 120 folding chairs we have, we will now be able to handle future food and meeting events without moving tables from the upstairs or having to borrow or rent as we have in the past.

**J**unior Warden Donnie Marini is heading up the preparation of the Parish Maintenance Manual, which will provide instructions and descriptive information, with photographs, on the equipment and systems in the church building that require regular monitoring and service. Don Otton, Bob Oschman, Father Hines, Father Schultz and Deacon Wilson are assisting Donnie with this endeavor. Plans have been made for a professional inspection of our heating and air-conditioning systems.

**P**ledge Cards are requested by Sunday, December 16, so the Treasurer and the Vestry can finalize the Parish Budget for 2008. Pledge Cards can be placed in the collection plate or sent to Treasurer Carol O'Sullivan or to the church office. Looking ahead, both the 2007 and the 2008 Budgets will be reviewed in detail at the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27.

**A**s you make plans for Christmas, the Family Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 PM on Christmas Eve, with the Solemn Sung Eucharist at 10:30 PM. A Solemn Sung Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. Please note the signup sheet in the Narthex for Christmas flowers for the church.

Bill Jepson  
Senior Warden

## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Well, the shopping and delivering of the baskets has been accomplished but the warm feelings are still with all of us.

We want to thank all of you for donating so GENEROUSLY to the Thanksgiving Baskets. You enabled us to purchase seven family baskets and one senior basket. When we finished shopping and marking our bags, we delivered them to the Crossroads Church where they were to be picked up by the recipients. One of the workers there, when she found out we were from All Saints, commented that they really count on us every year - out of the 36 requests for assistance they were able to provide, we at All Saints provided eight of them!!! Considering the size of our parish, our contribution to this outreach program was significant. Besides the items for the complete Thanksgiving dinner, we included many extras such as apples, oranges, flour, sugar, a canned ham, canned fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, butter, juice and paper goods - Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper and napkins. When we asked about suggestions for shopping this year, Linda at FISH said that fresh fruit would be a great treat and that the vouchers do not allow for paper goods. So maybe in the future when you are bringing your monthly FISH donations to church, you will consider bringing paper goods.

We would like to thank our wonderful shoppers this year: Bill and Barbara Jepson, Chuck and Libby Bolton, Carol O'Sullivan, Sue Peterson, Chris Hall and Rebecca Ruff. Their enthusiasm and efficiency was very much appreciated.

Fabi Brush and Chris Oschman  
Thanksgiving Basket Co-Chairs

**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.**

Newsletter Editorial Staff  
Father Hines  
Marcia Wilson  
Technical Assistant  
Deacon Wilson

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

### **Dates to Remember**

Saturday, December 8, 10:00 AM,  
Sunday School Children's Party  
Sunday, December 9,  
Mitten Tree Collection ends  
Cookie Walk  
Sunday, December 16,  
Vestry  
F I S H  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 17, 18 and 19,  
Jewel Shop and Share Days  
Sunday, December 23,  
No Sunday School  
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve,  
Family Mass, 6:30 PM  
Solemn Eucharist, 10:30 PM  
(with Carols and Incense)  
Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day,  
Solemn Eucharist, 10:00 AM  
(with Incense)  
Wednesday, December 26,  
Low Mass, 7:00 PM,  
St. Stephen, the First Martyr  
Thursday, December 27,  
Low Mass, 7:00 PM,  
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Friday, December 28,  
Low Mass, 7:00 PM,  
Holy Innocents  
Tuesday, January 1,  
Low Mass, 10:00 AM  
Feast of the Circumcision

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. Blair W. Schultz, Assistant Priest  
The Rev. Mr. Robert L. Wilson, Deacon

