



THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



VOLUME VII ISSUE XI

DECEMBER 2009

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.”



Clayton Shaw baptism, Sunday, November 29, with Father Schultz and his parents, Bill and Gretchen Shaw



Amanda Beasley was baptized on Saturday, November 28. Pictured with Amanda are her parents, John and Cindy Beasley and Father Schultz

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

The Vestry met on Sunday, November 15. A summary of this meeting is as follows:

- The Treasurer’s Report for October, 2009 was approved; the proposed Parish Budget for 2010 was reviewed, to be finalized at the December meeting. 2010 Pledges are due by December 20, and Pledge Sunday information will be mailed to all those who were absent.

- A report on the Outreach Committee was received, with details to be published in the December Parish Newsletter.
- The final report on the official visit of Archbishop Provenca, November 8-11, was reviewed by Father Schultz, noting the success of the visit, with a total cost to the parish of \$516. Travel and housing expenses were taken care of by the budget of the Diocese of the Eastern States.
- Deacon Wilson reported that the total cost for a new Lectern and four-seat bench for the Sanctuary will be \$3,527, being purchased from the Gunder Company, Humbolt, Iowa, with delivery anticipated in early March.
- Chris Oschman, Chair of the Annual Thanksgiving Basket Project, reported that \$1,340 had been contributed by the parish and that shopping and delivery will be done on Monday, November 23.
- Noted that the Annual Mitten Tree collection begins on November 22 until Sunday, December 13, which is also the date for the Annual ACW “Cookie Walk.”
- The Senior Warden noted that the agreement for a professional lawn service for 2010 will be referred to the Vestry for approval at the December meeting.
- In accordance with the guidelines, the Vestry will consider nominations for the “Shield of All Saints Medal.” This award, given for meritorious service to All Saints, requires the unanimous vote of the Vestry, with presentation at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 24, 2010.
- The Annual Parish Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 5, and the Church School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 12.
- A draft of the Parish Calendar for 2010 will be distributed to the Vestry at the December meeting, to be finalized at the regular January meeting.
- Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 PM (no incense) and a Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 PM. Father Schultz will also celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM on Christmas morning.

If you have an interest in serving on the Vestry, please contact the Rector, Senior Warden or Donnie Marini or Charles Bolton of the Nominating Committee. The election will be held at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 24, 2010.

Please give your attention to the sign up sheet in the Narthex for Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report through October:

	<u>October</u>	<u>2009 YTD</u>
Income	\$12,566	\$119,508
Expenses	\$10,508	\$106,523
Difference	\$ 2,058	\$ 12,985

Please remember to return your pledge cards to me by no later than December 20. I've received 18 pledge cards thus far. Keep them coming!

Carol O'Sullivan
Parish Treasurer

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH LIBRARY

Have you chosen your reading material for Advent? Selections are on display in the library on the "New" shelf.

In addition, a new volume in the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* has arrived. This volume contains commentary on Matthew 1 – 13. This is the first volume in the Ancient Christian Commentary series on the New Testament. You can use the book for reference for a particular verse or read the book from cover to cover. This book is also located on the "New" shelf.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know: on Sundays, by phone or via email.

Sue Peterson
Church Librarian

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY

Our annual children's Sunday School Party will be held at the church on Saturday, December 12, at 10 AM.

Children will decorate the parish Christmas tree, play games and Have refreshments.

The teachers have planned a fun party, and we hope all children will be able to attend.

Chuck Bolton
Sunday School Administrator

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The 2009 Annual F I S H Thanksgiving Baskets are now history. We as a parish make such a difference for these Bolingbrook families, providing them a complete Thanksgiving Day feast as well as one or two complete meals after that and many, many staples to stock their pantries.

When I called this year to offer our assistance as a parish there was a new woman in charge. She said that they were counting on us and that if we could take ten families that would be wonderful. The families this year ranged in size from 6 to 10 which is a big increase over previous years. She later called and said one family was a duplicate so we only had nine. I assured her that we would do our best and in fact you all rose to the occasion - between ACM, ACW and your donations we were able to collect \$1,350 and each family received \$150 worth of food.

I want to thank this year's shoppers Chuck and Libby Bolton, Donnie Marini and Chris Hall, Bill Jepson, Sue Peterson, Carol O'Sullivan and Deacon Wilson for shopping, bagging and toting everything by car to the church where the pickup took place!! It all worked like clockwork and we finished our shopping with just enough time to get over to the church and unload our groceries. The tables they set aside for our contributions were so full that we had to start lining up bags underneath the tables. It was a heartwarming experience to know the joy and happiness this would provide on Thanksgiving and for many, many days and perhaps weeks to come. The thought of no food for children is bothersome to me and I'm sure weighs heavy for these families. I know we were all feeling very good about our ability to carry out this Thanksgiving ritual once again with your support.

Meijer's donated a \$50 gift card which we in turn donated to F I S H so they could purchase what they needed, and they assured me that there are always emergencies and thanked me profusely for the gift. After our shopping there was \$45.18 left over that Carol collected, and we are going to donate this to the Outreach committee to use.

Again this year Carol O'Sullivan was a valuable partner in this cause, collecting the money, getting cash into envelopes for the shoppers, filling out all the necessary paperwork for the tax-exempt status and donating a turkey that she receives from work -- thanks Carol.

I thank all of you for your generosity - you made nine needy families feel loved and satisfied - and thanks for allowing me the pleasure of chairing this event once again.

Chris Oschman
Thanksgiving Basket Chair

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Here it is December, I don't know about you, but I had to add my planner for 2010! A wake up call? At any rate, here are the dates for Feed My Starving Children 2010:

Wednesday, February 3, 4:15PM-6:30PM

Saturday, April 10, 11:15AM-1:30PM

Wednesday, July 14, 6:15PM-8:30PM

We may be able to add some dates as the year progresses. I'll keep you informed as dates become available.

We had a very successful time at Feed My Starving Children on November 3, 2009. We had 17 volunteers from All Saints. The total of volunteer workers that night was 87. We packed 86 boxes for a total of 18,576 meals – that will feed 51 children for a year. The total cost of the meals was \$3,157.92 (cost per child, \$36.29). This was all accomplished in one hour and ten minutes of packing!

Feed My Starving Children has four shifts per day, Monday-Friday and five shifts on Saturday. They are closed on Sunday.

It sure feels good to serve our Lord in this endeavor!

Thanks to all,

Sue Ross

Outreach Committee Member

ANGLICAN CHURCH MEN

Members from the parish spent Saturday, November 14 upgrading the winter efficiency of a low income family's home in Joliet in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and Exelon. We had nine volunteers from the parish, two from Exelon and several from Habitat and it still took us from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. A great day but for some reason, no one from that group will answer calls from Dan Brush any longer..... Your ACM continues to look for additional opportunities to provide support to those in need and trust doors will be opened for us.

We enter the new year with anticipation of dinner/theater events, fishing trips, baseball outings, golf outings and a couple of new events. Your ideas are always welcome.

We are still seeking a new slate of officers for 2010, come and participate in the next meeting, December 13, and see how your talents can have an impact on our parish family and the local community.

Dan Brush

ACM President

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

On Sunday, December 13, the ACW will once again provide a bounty of Christmas cookies! Sample just a cookie or two or fill a provided container with cookies to enjoy at home or to share with family and friends. You may make a freewill offering or buy a container of cookies for \$6. Donations will benefit the ACW 2010 projects.

The next ACW sponsored Jewel Shop & Share Days are December 14, 15 and 16. Identification Slips are available in the Narthex. Please take slips to share with family, friends and co-workers.

Our next scheduled meeting will be January 17. Please let me know if you would like to serve as an ACW officer for 2010. We will elect our officers at our January meeting.

Jane Munsie

ACW President

Dates to Remember

Saturday, December 5, 6:00 PM

Annual Parish Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12, 10 AM

Annual Sunday School Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13, Advent III

ACW Christmas Cookie Sale

Mitten Tree Collection Ends

ACM Meeting

Sunday, December 20, Advent IV

Vestry Meeting

F I S H Collection

No Sunday School

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 22 and 23

No Mass

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist, 6:30 PM

Christmas Carols, 10:45 PM

Solemn Eucharist with Incense, 11:00 PM

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 27, St. John

No Sunday School

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, December 29, 30, 31

No Mass

Office Closed

Friday, January 1, Circumcision of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 3, Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday School resumes

Wednesday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist, 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 24

Parish Annual Meeting after Mass

All Saints Anglican Church
(Traditional Episcopal)
Using the
1928 Book of Common Prayer

131 East Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630.783.8280
630.710.7375 (cell)

WEBSITES

www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org
www.anglicanpck.org

Holy Eucharist and Church School
Sunday, 9:30 AM

Low Mass
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Office Hours
Tuesday through Friday
9:00 AM – Noon

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

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Father Schultz
Deacon Wilson
Marcia Wilson
Amy Leonard
Sandy Spencer

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

