

THE SANCTUS

A PUBLICATION OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



VOLUME VIII ISSUE II

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TAKING LENT SERIOUSLY

Lent is only a few weeks off! The liturgical color will be changing from its current green color (which symbolizes growth) to purple (symbolizing repentance). By this change in color the Church is calling us to bring about change in our lives.

Unfortunately the days are far, far gone from when the particular society Christians lived in was set up in a way that it actually helped them in their effort to keep a “good Lent.” Sure we might notice a restaurant or two today that has “Fish Friday” on their menu as a way to accommodate their Christian clientele who are trying to keep a moderate Lent fast, but that is all the help we really see anymore coming from our modern culture. In the good old days it used to be that there was much more outside help. There was a day when the Church, and her liturgical seasons, used to hold much more sway in the everyday world than it does now: Ash Wednesday used to be a day off for many people, “Fish Friday” used to be offered at most restaurants instead of just one or two, church bells used to peal through the air at the noon hour to remind the town people that it was Lent and that they were under Lenten obligations. In foreign countries they would go so far as to close theaters and other places of amusement since Lent is to hold a somber, not festive, tone. In the more ancient times, even the government courts suspended their activities. All of these things created a certain atmosphere - a kind of Lenten climate - in which personal effort by the individual Christian to keep a good Lent was made easier.

But now we no longer live in a Christian culture. Unlike our Christian brethren of the past we don't live in small, mainly rural communities within one organically Christian world. Our world has been made much bigger in a sense. Ours is an enormous urban society that is pluralistic in its religious beliefs, and mainly secularistic in its world view. This can make a Christian become almost “spiritually schizophrenic” - we go to church on Sunday and participate in Lent, but as soon as we step out the church doors we enter into a secular world which does

nothing to support our Lenten goals. (Actually the secular world usually inhibits our Lenten goals!) Because of this our lives become divided into two parts: the religious and the secular. As Christians we cannot allow such a division to be in our personal lives. We cannot have a “religious life” versus a “secular life” - we are called to always be in communion with God, not just for one hour on Sunday mornings.

As the saying goes, “adversity can bring about great things.” Yes it is a challenge for us Christians to keep a good Lent because of the pluralistic, secularist society in which we live. It does force us to have to be more conscious of our Lenten obligations when we are outside the church walls, and to strive all the harder to find ways to keep to them. But this demanded extra effort can be a good thing. “Ye shall reap what you sow,” the Bible says to us. (II Corinthians 9:6) With the extra effort we are promised an outcome of extra blessing.

Since society is no longer going to aid Christians when they step outside the church walls, it is up to the Christian to aid himself/herself. Therefore make a plan! The Church is on the way to beginning Lent but she gives us a few weeks before that happens. She gives us these weeks so that we can begin preparing ourselves for the endeavor ahead.

Here are a few things to consider making a part of your Lenten plan:

Fast – to fast means to eat less food (or we can “abstain” - give up some little luxury in our life during the 40 days of Lent). This does not have to be a daily exercise, perhaps just on certain days of the week. Or for health reasons, instead of eating less food give up a certain food altogether – such as chocolate. By fasting from food, or by abstaining from a certain luxury, we are quickly reminded that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by God.” (Matthew 4:4) Amazingly many Christians today recoil at the idea of fasting. Fasting is meant to be an important part of a complete Christian life. Our Lord himself says that evil cannot be overcome “but by much prayer and fasting.” (Mark 9:29)

Confession – Confession is a difficult and humbling experience but always rewarding. In it we go to confess the many ways in which we have separated ourselves from God who is our Source and Strength, and in turn we receive both His mercy and His reconciliation. Lent is a very good time to make a confession because by it we are recognizing our unworthiness to approach Almighty God and therefore how much greater was the act of the Cross for our sins.

Attend more Liturgies - Consider attending one of the low Masses offered on the weekdays (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 10 AM; Wednesday – 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Mass). Come to reflect, pray, repent, and in turn, receive God’s love in the Blessed Sacrament.

Less television or radio - Everyone will no doubt agree that the whole society has been radically altered by radio and television. These media now permeate our whole life. Modern man has lost the ability to “enjoy silence” – we constantly have a television or radio blaring at us in the background. By losing silence we are losing an avenue of contact with God – as Scriptures tell us, “The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep *silence* before him.” (Habakkuk 2:20) If the Christian of the past lived in great measure in a silent world, giving him ample opportunity for concentration and inner life, today’s Christian has to make a special effort to recover the dimension of silence that alone can put us in contact with higher realities. A suggestion therefore is to try to drastically reduce television or radio consumption during Lent. Don’t try to cut it out altogether because by setting too high a goal one is setting themselves up for failure.

Filling the void - If you choose to tune out the “world’s noises” by turning off the radio or television try to fill this void with positive content. If prayer feeds our soul, our intellect also needs its food for it is precisely man’s intellect that is being destroyed today by the ceaseless hammering of television, radio, etc. “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2) Renew your mind with some spiritual reading. This can be simply taking ten minutes a day to sit and read some passage of the Bible, or it can be reading a spiritual book from our parish library (we have lots of choices mentioned later in this Newsletter). It doesn’t even have to be a “religious” book – not all people are called to be theologians. There are many literary masterpieces out there which will help us meet God’s desire of giving us an enriched mind, and thereby an enriched life! Make your list of books in advance so that when Lent comes you will be prepared.

At the workplace - What can we do about Lent during the long hours we spend outside of home – commuting, sitting at our desks, taking care of our professional duties, meeting our colleagues and friends? Lent is a good time to measure the incredibly superficial character of our relations with men, things and work. The “keep smiling”

and “take it easy” slogans which we recite everyday really just mean: don’t get involved, don’t question, don’t deepen your relations with human beings; keep to the worldly rule which combines a friendly attitude with total indifference; think of everything in terms of material gains, benefits, advancement.

Instead, let Lent be a time for the search for meaning: meaning of my professional life in terms of a vocation/a calling, meaning of my relationship to other persons, meaning of friendship, meaning of my responsibility. There is no job, no vocation, no relationship that cannot be “transformed” - be it only a little – into something less superficial and more meaningful and purposeful. The world is becoming progressively de-humanizing and impersonal, that is simply not the Christian way. We look to the Incarnation – God is so personal that he became Person.

Those are all some suggestions for you to consider adopting so that you can take Lent seriously. Lent is more than just the recovery of man of his faith. It is also his recovery of life, of its divine meaning, of its sacred depth. It is by fasting and abstaining from food that we rediscover its sweetness and learn again how to receive it from God with joy and gratitude. It is by “slowing down” on music and entertainment, on superficial socializing and relationships, that we rediscover the ultimate value of silence and prayer, of human relationships and human work. And, we rediscover all this because very simply we rediscover God himself – because we return to Him and in Him to all that He gave us in His infinite love and mercy.

MITE BOXES

The traditional spiritual exercises of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Mite Box deals with the latter two. As a person gives up things (fasts) for Lent, there will be a little more pocket change left over than usual. The Mite Box is a good place to put that money which is then given toward a charitable purpose (almsgiving).

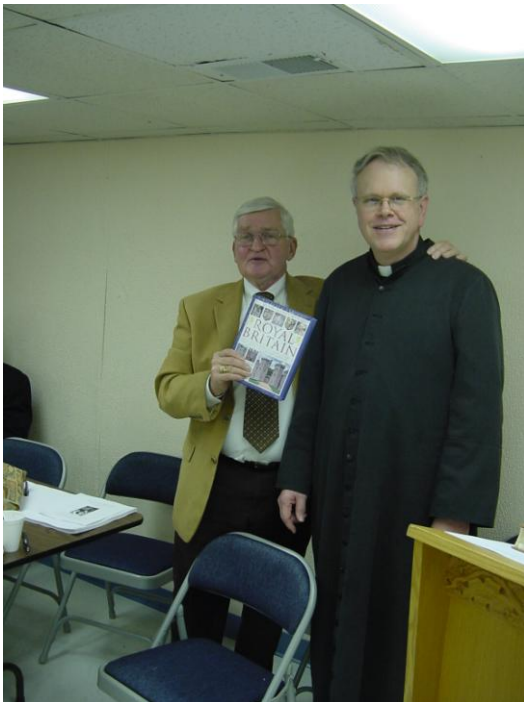
The boxes will be collected on Easter Day and blessed on the following Sunday. All the money will go to benefit St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary in California via the Provincial Anglican Church Women. The Mite Boxes will be available in the Narthex starting on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

The term “Mite Box” comes from our Lord’s praise of the poor widow woman who, although only having two mites (coins), put them both in the Temple’s treasury. Jesus praised her sacrifice which, although small, was worth more in the eyes of God than those who gave larger amounts without sacrifice (*Mark 12:42-44*).

SHIELD OF ALL SAINTS MEDAL AWARD

On Sunday, January 24, Father Schultz presented the “Shield of All Saints Medal Award” to Sue Peterson. Initiated in conjunction with the dedication of the Church building on November 3, 2003, this award was created to recognize exemplary service to the Parish. The award is not an annual award, but is given solely on the basis of merit and requires the unanimous vote of the Vestry for presentation. Sue was nominated for the following reasons: Sue joined the Parish in 1997 and became a member of the Altar Guild at that time. Sue served as an elected member of the Vestry from 2000 to 2009. In addition to serving as an elected member of the Vestry, Sue was appointed Clerk of the Vestry in 1998 and she continues in that position. Sue is also Clerk of the Annual Meeting and is responsible for the collection, organization, and duplication of all of the reports and materials for the Annual Meeting. Sue is Parish Librarian, has been an active member of the Anglican Church Women, worked on the three Flea Markets that the Parish sponsored, has assisted with the Thanksgiving Basket project and helped with the three Synods hosted by the Parish.

The Shield of All Saints Medal Award plaque hangs in the Narthex and lists the clergy and laity who have received this recognition. Sue certainly deserves this honor for all of the hard work she has done to benefit All Saints.



THANK YOU

The Parish extends a big thank you to Bill Jepson who has completed his second 3-year term on the Vestry. Bill served as Senior Warden for five of the six years that he was on the Vestry. Because of the term limit provision in the Parish By-laws, Bill was not eligible for re-election at the Annual Meeting. However, Bill continues to serve as a Lay Reader, an Acolyte and a member of the Grounds Committee. Thank you, Bill, for your dedicated work. Also, thanks are due to Donnie Marini who has been Junior Warden for the last five years. Donnie continues to serve on the Vestry and as an usher. Thank you, Donnie, for all of your hard work.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

From the earliest times, Christians have flocked to the Holy Land to visit the places sanctified by the events of our Lord's earthly life. Especially popular was the pilgrimage along the path our Lord took on the first Good Friday. This pilgrimage was made with great devotion, the procession stopping (or making "stations") for prayer and meditation at the various traditional points where special events took place. For those who were unable to visit the Holy Land, the custom arose throughout Europe of setting up replicas of the different incidents along the Way of Sorrows, so that the faithful could make spiritual pilgrimages. After a long development, these little shrines became restricted to fourteen, and it is now customary to set them up along the walls of Christian churches. Please join us on the Wednesdays in Lent to make your own spiritual pilgrimage along the Way of Sorrows. Stations will begin at 6:30 PM with Mass following at approximately 7:00 PM.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Congratulations to Chris Oschman, Sue Ross and Isaac Laryea who were elected to 3-year terms on the Vestry at the Parish Annual Meeting. Chris and Sue continue on the Vestry while Isaac is a new member. Father Schultz announced at the Annual Meeting that he had appointed Chuck Bolton to the post of Senior Warden for 2010. At the Vestry Meeting after the Annual Meeting, Paul Drayton was elected Junior Warden, Sue Peterson was re-elected Parish Clerk, Carol O'Sullivan was re-elected Parish Treasurer, and Marcia Wilson was re-appointed Editor of *The Sanctus*. Continuing on the Vestry are Donnie Marini, Dan Brush, Paul Drayton, Chuck Bolton and Carol O'Sullivan.



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Vestry met on January 17 and following is a summary of the meeting:

- The final Treasurer's Report for 2009 was reviewed and the Parish Budget for 2010 was approved for presentation at the annual meeting.
- The 2010 calendar was reviewed and, after some amendments, was ready for finalization by the new Vestry.
- The 2010 officers for ACM and ACW were presented to the Vestry along with their planned events for 2010.
- It was agreed that the ACM will sponsor a pancake breakfast after Mass on Sunday, February 14.
- It was announced that the 2010 Parish Directory is being finalized and will be distributed in early February. Additional copies will be available in the Narthex.
- The disposition of excess income from 2009 was discussed. The Vestry approved directing \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund and \$19,964 to the General Reserves.

Our annual meeting was well attended and was enhanced by the great food prepared and served by members of the ACW. Their effort in furnishing the food is greatly appreciated by all. Carol O'Sullivan's treasurer's report with a surplus of \$24,964 was good news!

The new Vestry met after the annual meeting to organize. In addition to the elections and appointments mentioned in the preceding article, the following appointments were made: Fellowship Chair, Jan Semaan; Outreach Committee, Deacon Wilson, Sue Ross, Libby Bolton; Church School Director, Chuck Bolton. Items related to property maintenance were discussed and tabled to the February meeting.

We are thankful for everyone's generous donations of time, talents and treasure.

Chuck Bolton
Senior Warden

LENTEN MATERIAL

There are several booklets in the Parish Tract Rack that relate to Lent. Among the most useful are the daily meditations for adults and for families. I highly recommend one of these for your Lenten devotions. The booklets have a meditation for each day in Lent. The meditations are short, generally less than a full page. And each meditation starts with a verse from Scripture. Some that are recommended are *On to Jerusalem – Daily Meditations and Prayer for Lent* by Mark Finley, *Follow Me – Scriptural Reflection and Prayer for Each Day of Lent* by Fr. John F. Kavanaugh and Mark Neilsen, and *From Fear to Love – Lenten Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son* by Henri J. M. Nouwen. For families there is *Abounding in Steadfast Love – Family Devotions for Lent* by Mark Neilsen. Also available for family use is *40 Ways for 40 Days – A Family Guide through Lent*. This booklet has several ideas for how families can celebrate the Lenten and Easter season. There is no charge for these booklets, but a donation of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the material would be appreciated. Also, remember there are books in the Parish Library that you may borrow for Lent.

Father Schultz+

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report through December 2009:

	<u>December</u>	<u>2009 YTD</u>
Income	\$15,404	\$150,378
Expenses	\$10,288	\$125,414
Difference	\$ 5,116	\$ 24,964

The full Treasurer's Report for 2009 was included in the Annual Meeting information. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, please pick up a copy of the presentation packet. The budget for 2010 was also included in that data.

Carol O'Sullivan
Parish Treasurer

LENTEN READING IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Selections for the Lenten season have been pulled and are on display in the library. Of interest: *A Time to Turn: Anglican Readings for Lent and Easter Week*, by Charles Webber and *Lent with Evelyn Underhill*. We also have classics by St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Avila, C.S. Lewis, Brother Andrew, and study guides for each book of the Bible from Guideposts. Come in, choose from the items on display or browse the shelves!

In addition, a new volume in the series *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* has arrived. This volume contains commentary on Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. You can use the book for reference for a particular verse or read the book from cover to cover. Look for it on the "New" shelf in the library.

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

Sue Peterson
Parish Librarian

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Father Schultz will start a six week Bible Study on Sunday, February 14 from 8:30 to 9:15 AM. The topic will be the “I Am” sayings of Jesus in St. John’s Gospel. Seven times in *John*, Jesus uses the phrase “I am the... ”; e.g., I am the Good Shepherd and I am the Resurrection and the Life. We will be discussing what these statements mean in light of the fact that “I Am” is also the name of God in *Exodus*. *Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”* (*Exodus* 3:13, 14, RSV) Materials will be provided, so there is no book to purchase. However, the class will be based upon the book by Lawrence R. Farley, *The Gospel of John: Beholding the Glory*. Ben Lomond, CA: Conciliar Press, 2006. (This is the same book we used in the fall to study the “Signs” of Jesus in St. John’s Gospel.) This book can be purchased from Amazon.com. If you order the book through the parish website, a portion of the purchase price comes back to the Church.

CONFESSION

If you would like to make sacramental confession a part of your Easter preparations, please contact Father Schultz to set up an appointment.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ACW will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 14, and will quickly adjourn to enjoy the pancake breakfast being provided by the ACM. Please plan to attend this brief meeting.

We hope you will join us for Girls’ Day Out on Saturday, February 20. We have decided to postpone an outing to Geneva until the summer when the weather is better. Instead, we will meet at the church at 9:00 AM and carpool to the Arboretum of Barrington Mall. In less than an hour, we will arrive and enjoy shopping at LLBean and other upscale stores. We will have lunch at noon at Cooper’s Hawk in the mall and will return to the church around 2:00 PM. Please call me if you can attend or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. I will make reservations on Wednesday, February 17 for those going to lunch.

Mark your calendars for April 30-May 1. We will hold our second annual ACW retreat at Dan and Fabi Brush’s Rushville farmhouse. More details will be available soon, but plan to share in this time of worship and fellowship.

Jane Munsie
ACW President

Dates to Remember

Saturday, February 13,
Feed My Starving Children, 4:15 – 6:00 PM

Sunday, February 14,
Bible Study, 8:30 AM
ACM Pancake Breakfast
ACW Meeting
Distribution of Mite Boxes

Wednesday, February 17,
Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes and Mass,
10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 20,
ACW Girls' Day Out,
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, February 21,
First Sunday in Lent
Vestry Meeting
F I S H

Wednesday, February 24,
St. Matthias
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

Sunday, February 28,
Second Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, March 3,
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 7,
Third Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, March 10,
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

Sunday March 14,
Fourth Sunday in Lent
ACM and ACW Meetings
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Wednesday, March 17,
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 24,
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Vestry Meeting
F I S H

Wednesday, March 24,
St. Gabriel
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 25,
Annunciation, Mass 10:00 AM

Sunday, March 28,
Palm Sunday
Procession and Solemn High Mass, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, March 30,
Holy Tuesday, Mass 10:00 AM

Wednesday, March 31,
Holy Wednesday,
Stations of the Cross and Mass, 6:30 PM

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

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.