



THE SANCTUS

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ALL SAINTS AWARD



Fr. Schultz presents Chris Oschman the All Saints Award

INFANT BAPTISM

A few years ago, I was approached by a parishioner who asked for my opinion on infant baptism. The parishioner said he had had many conversations with his son on the topic of infant baptism versus adult baptism. He said his son believed that children should not be baptized. The following is my reply to the parishioner.

Dear _____,

I'm sure your son agrees with us that baptism is a sacrament ordained by Jesus himself. But I don't know if he has the same belief in what is happening to the soul when a person is baptized. We believe that when a person is baptized his soul is spiritually reborn. Fr. Jerome Politzer wrote, "Through baptism we are born again in God's eternal kingdom by His grace. The gift of grace which God gives to us in baptism is called Regeneration..."¹ Regeneration is defined as "The spiritual rebirth which is . . . effected in the soul by Christian Baptism."² The *Oxford Dictionary* continues, "The [Book of Common Prayer] preserved the traditional Catholic teaching. In the Orders for the Administration of Baptism it maintained the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration, asserting that man is washed and sanctified with the Holy Spirit, delivered from the wrath of God, received into the ark of Christ's Church, accorded the remission of sins, and made an heir of everlasting salvation."³ In theological terms Baptismal Regeneration is "sanctifying grace." Sanctifying grace is "The gift of God inhering in the soul, by which men are enabled to perform righteous acts. It is held to be normally conveyed in the Sacraments."⁴ Baptismal Regeneration then is something that God does for us. It is not something that we do for ourselves. Therefore one's age shouldn't be the determining factor when deciding whether the soul is "fit" to receive baptism.

¹ Jerome E. Politzer, "A Form of Godliness: An Analysis of the Changes in Doctrine and Discipline in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer", (Philadelphia: The Prayer Book Society, Date Unknown), p. 2.

² F. L. Cross & E. A. Livingstone, Eds, *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd Ed, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), p. 1376.

³ Cross & Livingstone, p. 151.

⁴ Cross & Livingstone, p. 698.

Another thought that occurs to me is that your son may believe in subjective reality with regard to baptism as compared to objective reality. Let me explain what I mean. We believe in the objective reality of baptism. This means that baptism is effective even if the person who receives baptism doesn't completely understand what is happening to him. (And who of us completely understands the meaning of any of the sacraments?) Your son apparently believes in subjective reality with regard to baptism. This means that baptism has no effect unless the person who is baptized accepts the baptism.

To my way of thinking the concept of subjective reality with regard to baptism limits the power of God. If you believe this way, you are saying in effect God has no power unless you accept His power. This is another way of saying that God can't help a person unless he accepts God's help. But this seems to deny the practical experience of most, if not all, Christians. Most of us can look back at events and clearly see God's hand guiding us even though we weren't aware of His help at the time. (The theological term for this is *prevenient grace* which is grace which leads a person to sanctification before the reception of the Sacraments.) A belief in the objective reality of baptism means that we believe God can, and does, give us His grace even though we may be unaware of it.

Now I'm not saying that we don't believe that a person ultimately has a choice to be for God or against Him. C. S. Lewis wrote that where we spend eternity depends upon who says "Thy will be done." Do we say to God, "Thy will be done," and therefore spend eternity with God. Or does God say to us, "thy will be done," and we spend eternity without God. We do believe in free will. We do believe that we can accept or reject God's grace. I guess what I'm saying here is that God's grace doesn't depend on our accepting Him. It is grace - unmerited favor - which God bestows freely upon His creatures. We can accept it or reject it, but God can still give us grace without our acknowledging its existence. Some will argue, of course, that infant baptism wasn't practiced by the early church. The scriptural basis for infant baptism is Matthew 19:14, ". . . Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven'" and Acts 16:33 "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and *all his family*" (emphasis mine). But I would argue that Matthew 28:19 is also a place in scripture which supports infant baptism, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."⁵ Jesus

⁵ Scriptural quotes are from ESV.

didn't say, "go and make disciples of adults," or "go and make disciples of adults and children of reason." He said "go and make disciples of all nations;" that is, everyone.

There is also evidence from the early Church Fathers that infant baptism was not only practiced but approved of. Cyprian⁶ wrote, "Moreover, belief in divine Scripture declares to us that among all - whether infants or those who are older - there is the same equality of the divine gift. . . . Otherwise, it would seem that the very grace which is given to the baptized is given either more, or less, depending on the age of the receivers. However, the Holy Spirit is not given with measure. Rather, it is given alike to all, by the love and mercy of the Father. . . . For although the infant is still fresh from its birth, yet it is not such that anyone should shudder at kissing it in giving grace and in making peace."⁷ He also wrote, "Even the greatest sinners and to those who have sinned much against God, when they subsequently believe, remission of sins is granted. Nobody is hindered from baptism and from grace. How much more should we shrink from hindering an infant. . . . Therefore, dearest brother, this was our opinion in council that no one should be hindered by us from baptism and from the grace of God."⁸ If I can summarize, what Cyprian is saying here is that God gives grace to us in baptism and no one should be denied the grace of God just because he is an infant.

I guess my last argument for infant baptism would be by way of analogy. When a child is born, his parents will have the infant vaccinated. They do that to inoculate the child against physical disease. When we baptize an infant, we inoculate the child against spiritual disease. Good parents will have their children inoculated against physical disease. Good Christian parents will have their children inoculated against spiritual disease.

Perhaps I haven't written anything that will change your son's mind about infant baptism. But maybe I've given you and him some things to think about.

Fr. Blair W. Schultz+

⁶ Saint, Bishop of Carthage, martyred 258 AD.

⁷ David W. Bercot, Ed., *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1998), p. 59.

⁸ Bercot, p. 59-60.

THE BIRETTA

Most people are familiar with the mitre which is the head covering used by bishops. The mitre is a symbol of the bishop's office. Less familiar to most people is the biretta which is the head covering used by priests and deacons. For priests and deacons the biretta is a symbol of their office. The biretta is a stiff, four-cornered cap with three blades surmounted with a tuft (pompon). The biretta for priests and deacons is all black. The biretta is worn in processions both inside and outside of the church by the clergy who are in sacred vestments. The biretta is worn with the bladeless part to the left side. It is taken off when the sacred ministers reach the lowest altar step. It is not put on again until the procession begins to leave the sanctuary at the end of the service. However, it may be worn by the preacher of a sermon or by the other clergy when they are seated at the sedilia during a sermon. While bishops still use the mitre, the use of the biretta has gone out of fashion in recent times. This seems to have occurred at the same time as the wearing of hats in general by men went out of fashion. Beginning on Palm Sunday, in an effort to add greater solemnity to the Eucharist, Fr. Schultz will be wearing a biretta on the major feasts in the Church calendar (e.g., Easter, Christmas, and All Saints Day).

THE SACRAMENT OF HEALING AND COMMUNION OF THE SICK

Throughout the ages, the Church has used the Laying on of Hands and the Anointing of the Sick as a special means of grace for the sick (*James* 5:14–15). This sacrament is meant to help the sick person encounter his illness with peace, dignity, strength, and holiness. If you, or someone you know, is sick, injured, or is planning a hospital visit, contact Fr. Schultz to be anointed. Also, if you, or someone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion when you, or they, are unable to attend Church, please contact Fr. Schultz. The Church cell phone # is 630-710-7375.

SENIOR WARDEN

Your 2011 vestry met for the first time following the Annual Meeting. We welcomed newly elected members Kevin Hillen, Bill Jepson and Sue Peterson. Paul Drayton will remain as Junior Warden, Sue Peterson will continue as Vestry Clerk, Carol O'Sullivan will continue as Treasurer, Marcia Wilson will continue as Newsletter Editor, Chuck Bolton as Church School Director and Jan Semaan as Fellowship Chair. Deacon Wilson, Sue Ross and Libby Bolton are our Outreach Committee. Thank you to each of them for chairing these committees.

We will be starting the new year with a balanced budget by transferring \$5,300.00 of our surplus from 2010 to our budget for this year. We were very fortunate despite the slow economy to have met all our obligations and had an excess to help us for this year. Thank you all for meeting your obligations this past year. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Thank you to Bill and Barbara Jepson for producing the Parish Directory - this is the tenth year they have faithfully done this task and we appreciate their hard work very much.

The ACM has a brunch scheduled for February 27 following the church service. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

We are obtaining estimates to have the inside of the sanctuary painted this year. It has been over ten years since it was last painted and there are some cracks developing that need attention and caulking that needs to be done around the windows. We are also obtaining estimates to replace the carpet in the Narthex.

We will be hosting the DES Synod this year and Fr. Schultz is contacting the other priests in the diocese to schedule a convenient time in June or July.

On Sunday, July 31, Father Schultz will celebrate a special mass for the 15th anniversary of the parish, and we are planning to commemorate the event at the Annual Parish Family Picnic on August 7.

I look forward to working with this Vestry and Father Schultz in carrying out the work the Lord has in store for us.

Chris Oschman
Senior Warden

ALL SAINTS CHURCH LIBRARY

There are a variety of new books on display in the library!

Like biography? *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* is on the shelf! This book comes highly recommended by one of our parishioners. From the book jacket: *Bonhoeffer* is the story of a life framed by a passion for truth and a commitment to justice on behalf of those who face implacable evil.

How about suspense fiction, historical or Christian fiction? The Zion Chronicles Series (five books) and The Zion Covenant Series (six books) have been described as all three. The author, Bodie Thoene writes real page turners with the help of her husband, Brock Thoene, who has done the historical research for the books. The setting is Europe in World War II. Watch the Holy Spirit work in the lives of the characters. It is suggested they be read in order. Both series have been highly recommended and donated by a parishioner.

And, for those looking for commentary on scripture, another book in the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture series is on the "New" shelf, too. This one is on the first thirty nine chapters of Isaiah.

Come into the library and browse!

Sue Peterson
Parish Librarian

ANGLICAN CHURCH MEN

The ACM met on Sunday, January 9, and elected Bill Jepson, President, and Donnie Marini, Vice President/Treasurer for 2011.

The ACM will again host a Brunch at Reza's Restaurant in Oak Brook on Sunday, February 27, at 11:15 AM. The Mediterranean Buffet is \$25.00 per person, which includes tax and tip, and is payable on site. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Bob Oschman is handling arrangements (630) 852-7160.

We agreed to initiate the start of the Lenten Season with a Pancake Breakfast after Mass on Sunday, March 6, in the Undercroft. Service will also be available in the Conference Room on the main level. Again, Dick Konigsfeld is Chair of this event.

We agreed that Junior Warden Paul Drayton and Bill Jepson will be responsible for taking care of the Church grounds in 2011, with assistance from members for trimming and anticipated planting of additional bushes and trees.

We agreed to sponsor a Parish Golf Outing and Family Fishing Party this summer, with dates and locations to be announced within a few months.

We reviewed the list of charitable contributions made in 2010 and asked for suggestions for this year.

It was noted that the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the parish is August 1, and it will be suggested to the Clergy and Vestry that an observance be held on Sunday, August 7, in conjunction with the Annual Parish Family Picnic at DuPage River Park.

We reviewed the financial statement, which indicated that the ACM has a balance of \$1,771.00 in its treasury as of January 1, 2011.

We thanked Dan Brush for the thorough job he did as ACM President in 2009 and 2010 and the members who took care of building maintenance this past year.

The ACM meets monthly (except August and December) in conjunction with the ACW. All members of the parish are invited to take part in all our meetings and activities.

Bill Jepson
ACM President

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

January was an eventful month for the ACW. Our Annual Meeting brunch went off without a hitch with the help of those who prepared food, set up and cleaned up the Undercroft for a sumptuous repast. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and hospitable attitude.

Jane Munsie hosted a purse party at the Church on January 28. Apparently, it was a great success with 10% of each order going to the ACW. Coffee and cake were served, and all who attended enjoyed the evening. Mite boxes will be distributed on March 6. Please consider giving generously to support our Seminary in California. The mite boxes will be collected on Easter Sunday.

We will have our annual Ladies' Retreat in either March or April. Further information will be available after our February meeting. We invite all ladies of the parish to attend for a contemplative and rewarding Christian experience.

Eleven ladies attended our new monthly Ladies' Luncheon on Wednesday, February 9. Our next luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9. Following the 10:00 AM Ash Wednesday service, we will meet for lunch at 11:30 AM at the restaurant in Bass Pro Shop in Bolingbrook Promenade. We hope many ladies will be able to join in this fellowship opportunity.

In Christ +
Fabi Brush
ACW President

Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 13
ACW and ACM Meetings
Sunday, February 20
Vestry Meeting
FISH Sunday
Sunday, February 27
Parish Brunch at Reza's
Sunday, March 6
ACM Pancake Breakfast
Distribution of Mite Boxes
Wednesday, March 9
Ash Wednesday, 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Imposition of Ashes & Mass
Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30, 7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross & Mass
Sunday, March 13
Daylight Savings Time begins
ACW and ACM Meetings
Sunday, March 20
Vestry Meeting
FISH Sunday

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
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.