



the evangelist

NEWS & EVENTS OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

April 2009

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PARISH NOTICES
SCHEDULE FOR HOLY
WEEK
BIO - FR. FRASER
VESTRY MINUTES
APRIL SAINTS
CALENDAR
APRIL LECTIONARY

DATES TO NOTE

April 9th:
Parish Supper
following Maundy
Thursday Mass

April 11th:
Reception following
Easter Vigil Mass

April 16th:
Women's Guild

April 21st:
Vestry Meeting

May 1st:
Arrival of Fr. Fraser

May 3rd:
Douglas Ward
Memorial Concert

Dear Friends in Christ:

At the Annual Meeting of S. John's Church in January, I made two assertions to which I would like to return. The first is that the single most important thing we do together as faithful Christians is the worship of Almighty God. This has not, and will not ever change.

The second assertion I made is that the success or failure of a new Rector – any Rector – is directly dependent upon the willingness of the Community (i.e. YOU and ME) to do the Lord's work "in the beauty of holiness" and consequently to see the beauty of the Lord in others.

What, exactly, does this mean?

It means that we must all return to the Altar of God, without recrimination, without accusation, and without guilt. It means that we must all return to the Altar of God without reservation, without judgement, and without hesitation. It means that we all must return to the single most important thing we do together as faithful Christians – the worship of Almighty God.

From that faithfulness, all of the pieces - pieces that people, sadly, have felt have been "missing" over the last three years - will flow in abundance. From that faithfulness, the community that is the Church of S. John the Evangelist will return to its rightful place as a representative of the True Church, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

Finally, through that same faithfulness, the ministry of the Rev'd Fr. Trent Fraser as Rector will be successful, God-blessed, and fruitful.

Grace be unto you, and Peace

~Jono Babbitt

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Dear Friends & Parishioners,

As Sr. Warden, I'd like to express my thanks to the Vestry and Search Committee for a successful completion of our search for a new rector. As of May 1, 2009, there will be a new rector: Rev. Fr. Trent Fraser will assume the task of ministering and administering to St. John's. There will be some changes in the year to come, and at our annual meeting in 2010, we will be looking for new Vestry members under the guidance of Fr. Fraser. As we prepare for Fr. Fraser's arrival, we owe a great deal of gratitude to Frs. Burger and Spencer for their ministry to St. John's, especially during the past number of months as well as through Christmas and the upcoming Holy Week services.

I would like to thank all committees for their help in 2008. As always, more help is needed, so please consider joining a committee. I will be working with the Kitchen Committee to put a new coffee hour schedule together. One committee we need to staff is for the Summer Fair, scheduled for August 1st, as well as someone to oversee all fair operations. I would also like to thank everyone who helped with our brunch after the Annual Meeting and Fr. Catir for presiding. And I thank everyone who helped with the Men's Club Italian Dinner. We all had a great time.

Sandra and I will be back in April in time to celebrate Holy Week with you. Holy Week is very important to all of us, especially Maundy Thursday. Doug Channon and I will take the watch from 2 am to 4 am. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church - there must be someone on watch every hour from Maundy Thursday until 6 pm on Good Friday. Do also join us after mass on Thursday for a pot luck supper as well as for the reception after the Easter Vigil in the rectory. Lastly, please keep the Vestry in your prayers as we move forward with a new rector to serve at the church of St. John the Evangelist.

O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses, which have been ever of old; O let not our enemies triumph over us; deliver us, O God out of all our troubles. Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul. My God, I have put my trust in Thee, O let me not be confounded. We beseech Thee, O Lord, that thou wouldst graciously bear our prayers; and stretch forth the right hand of thy majesty to be our defense against all adversities.

Your Senior Warden and Friend,
Charles White

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2009

Sunday 5 April – Palm Sunday

7:30 AM Mattins
8 AM Low Mass
10 AM Sung Mass with Liturgy of the Palms
5:30 PM Evensong

Monday 6 April

9 AM Mattins
5:30 PM Evensong

Tuesday 7 April

9 AM Mattins
5:30 PM Evensong

Wednesday 8 April

9 AM Mattins
6 PM Tenebrae

Thursday 9 April

6 PM Sung Mass - Institution of the Blessed Sacrament
Parish Supper in Guild Hall follows the Mass
Gethsemane Vigil begins after Mass until 6 PM Friday

Friday 10 April

12 Noon – Tres Hora Service with Meditations
6 PM Mass of the Presanctified

Saturday 11 April

8 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Parish Reception follows the Great Vigil

Sunday 12 April

7:30 AM Mattins
8 AM Low Mass with Hymns
10 AM Solemn High Mass of the Resurrection

Note: There will be no Choral Evensong service on Wednesday, April 15th as the choir enjoys the Great Rest.

The Rev'd Father R. Trent Fraser, SSC, Rector-Elect

The Rev'd. R. Trent Fraser, SSC, was born in North Bay, Ontario, Canada in 1965. After receiving a Bachelor's degree from Nipissing University College, Laurentian University, North Bay, he took a Master's in Divinity at Trinity College, University of Toronto in 1990. Ordained Deacon in 1992 by the Rt. Rev'd. Edward MacBurney, VII Bishop of Quincy, he was ordained Priest in May of 1993, also by the Bishop of Quincy.

In October 1993 he was appointed Curate at S. Clement's Church in Philadelphia, where he worked under the supervision of the Rev'd. Canon Barry Swain. While at S. Clement's, his training as a serious, hardworking and devout Anglo-Catholic priest prepared him for the rigours of his vocation.

In December of 2001, Fr. Fraser was called to be Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Southfield, Michigan, from which position he comes to us in Newport. Upon his arrival in Southfield, he found a parish that was only active on Sundays. During his tenure as Rector, he instituted an Adult Inquiry Class, a Wednesday Bible Study course, the Daily Office, and the celebration of Daily Mass.

Our new Rector is a celibate priest, and as such believes that living on the Parish grounds makes him available for sacramental and pastoral requirements at any time of day or night. In his own words, "this manner of clergy life suits me quite well".

Fr. Fraser also believes that his priestly ministry begins and ends at the Altar of God. His sense is that the closer to the Altar a priest is, the stronger the ministry will be. His hope and expectation is that we as a Parish will be able to deepen our spiritual and sacramental life through the disciplines of the Divine Office, Daily Mass, Retreats, and Quiet Days, among other things. In addition, he believes that a strong emphasis on education for adults, youth and children will also be important for the long-term health of our community.

Once again using Fr. Fraser's words, "Liturgical excellence, Incarnational teaching and preaching, can only be effective if there is also a welcoming community". The work of the Parish must ultimately rest with the energies of the faithful, and Fr. Fraser is looking forward to being in a Parish that feels as passionately as he does about doing the Lord's work "in the beauty of holiness" and consequently seeing the beauty of the Lord in others.

Fr. Fraser has served on the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Michigan, and has served as Regional Dean of the Oakland Deanery, a large geographical area and one of immense diversity. He also assists at the Cathedral by saying an occasional early Mass and by singing Choral Evensong as part of his commitment to Diocesan life. Quoting Fr. Fraser again, "Within the Diocese, while representing a minority position, I nonetheless find that I am welcomed and affirmed".

We look forward with joy to Fr. Fraser's arrival in Newport on 1 May.

SPRING SAINTS



St. Vincent Ferrer, Confessor (1357 - 1419) is the patron saint of builders because of his fame for “building up” and strengthening the Church - through his preaching, missionary work, in his teachings, and as confessor and adviser. Born in Valencia, Spain, he entered the Order of St. Dominic in 1374. When he was made Master of the sacred palace by the pope in Avignon, St. Vincent made unsuccessful efforts to put an end to the great schism. The most famous missionary of the fourteenth century, he evangelized in nearly every province of Spain, preached in France, Italy, Germany, Flanders, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and was honorably received in the districts subject to the two claimants to the Papacy. His feast day is **April 5**.

Saint Mark the Evangelist The second Gospel was written by St. Mark, who, in the New Testament, is sometimes called John Mark. Both he and his mother, Mary, were highly esteemed in the early Church, and his mother’s house in Jerusalem served as a meeting place for Christians there. St. Mark was associated with St. Paul and St. Barnabas (who was Mark’s cousin) on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus. Later he accompanied St. Barnabas alone. We know also that he was in Rome with St. Peter and St. Paul. Tradition ascribes to him the founding of the Church in Alexandria. St. Mark wrote the second Gospel, probably in Rome sometime before the year 60 A.D.; he wrote it in Greek for the Gentile converts to Christianity. Tradition tells us that St. Mark was requested by the Romans to set down the teachings of St. Peter. He is the patron saint of notaries, and his feast day is **April 25**.



Spreading the Word - - Ted Spargo has submitted the following Press Release to local newspapers:

New Rector Named at S. John’s Church: The Rev’d. R. Trent Fraser, SSC, has been named the new Rector of the Church of S. John the Evangelist on Washington Street in Newport’s historic Point district. Fr. Fraser leaves the Church of the Redeemer in Southfield, Michigan, where he has been Rector for the past seven years. From a field of twelve applicants for the position, Fr. Fraser was the unanimous choice of the Church Vestry. He will be arriving to assume his new position beginning May 1st. A Search Committee was formed last fall to appraise the candidates, conduct interviews, and make its recommendation. Upon completion, the Committee submitted its recommended choice for Vestry approval. S. John’s was seeking a priest committed to continue its mission as Anglo-Catholic witness to the Aquidneck Island community. S. John’s parish is one of only two Anglo-Catholic churches in the state and draws communicants from the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The parish family of S. John’s is looking forward to welcoming the arrival of Fr. Fraser, a priest dedicated to retaining and enhancing the Church’s liturgical and sacred musical traditions.

NOTICES

EASTER FLOWERS

With the Day of Resurrection fast approaching, we want to be able to celebrate the Risen Life of Christ – both in substance and in image. To that end, won’t you please be generous this year in your proclamation of the victory Jesus has won for each of us by helping to provide all the beauty His sanctuary deserves. ~ With continuing thanks for your faithful support – Your Altar Guild

MAUNDY THURSDAY GETHSEMANE WATCH

Beginning on Palm Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet available at the back of the church for people to commit to one hour of the Gethsemane Watch. This watch lasts from the end of Mass on Maundy Thursday until 6 PM

on Good Friday, calling to remembrance our Lord's plea – "Can you not watch with me one hour . . . ?". More than one watcher is always welcome. Remember, "until it be thoroughly finished . . ." Please be counted in this special service to Our Lord and Savior.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Help!!!! The Women's Guild would like to invite more women to participate in support of S. John's. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Guild Hall. Assistance in providing support for our various endeavors requires more women than have been helping.

Activities which the Women's Guild support include: collations, summer fair, June Secret Garden Tour, "Good Used Clothing Sale", the Christmas Bazaar, various cake and pie sales, and a new venue which will allow the personal sale of items by advertisement on a special bulletin board in the Guild Hall. Please consider joining us!!

DOUGLAS H.B. WARD MEMORIAL CONCERT

Swanhurst Chorus, Jonathan F. Babbitt, Music Director, will present the first Douglas H.B. Ward Memorial Concert featuring a performance of Fauré's hauntingly beautiful *Requiem* plus his *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Pavane*, on **Sunday, May 3rd** at St. John's at 4:00 PM. Requested donation is \$15 and \$10 Student.

Doug Ward, a native of Newport, was a member of Swanhurst Chorus for over 68 of the group's 80 year existence and was named a Life Member in 2005. His father, Albert Ward, was president of the group from 1930 to 1936. Doug also sang in the boy's choir at St. John's during his youth. Doug was born on September 11, 1920 and recently passed away on February 12, 2009.

Summary of Vestry Notes: Meeting of the S. John's Vestry - 10 February 2009

- ❖ The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by the Junior Warden. Present were officers Charles White (Senior Warden), Jono Babbitt (Junior Warden), and Ed Carnes (Treasurer); Vestry members Shirley Channon, Cheryl Abney, John Garagliano, Mary Lou Chase, and Pel Boyer; and guest Ted Spargo. Frank Jenks and Jay Jacot was absent.
- ❖ A written Treasurer's Report was distributed and accepted subject to audit. Currently the parish is in a positive cash flow, enjoying a net income of \$7,055 with all bills currently paid. Pledging thus far is ahead of projection. A new budget item for repairs to the Guild Hall has been opened. The Treasurer is working with Fr. Faser to arrange travel and shipment of household-goods.
- ❖ Senior Warden's Report: Fr. Faser will arrive in Newport on 1 May and will celebrate his first official mass on 3 May. He plans on setting up his office in the Guild Hall upper room. Some repairs to the rectory will be necessary. A volunteer to Chair the Summer Fair is still needed. The Fair is scheduled for August 1st. The Senior Warden will be absent from 16 February until early April. Shrove Tuesday supper will be served by the Vestry - Mr. Robinson will be in charge.
- ❖ Junior Warden's Report: Fr. Burger has agreed to cover all Sunday masses until Fr. Faser's arrival. Fr. Spencer will cover Saturday masses.
- ❖ Committee Reports: The Men's Club is planning a dinner for sometime in May.
- ❖ Old Business: The Wardens and Treasurer will meet with the forensic auditor on the 11th. A charitable donation from GERALYN WOLF will go toward the Jimmy Winters Fund and Stop & Shop gift cards. The lease on the copier (currently out of service) will not be renewed.
- ❖ New Business: ~ Ted Spargo is putting together a full-color information brochure on St. John's for availability at local lodging establishments and the Visitor's Center. The Vestry voted to authorize Mr. Spargo to proceed with the project. ~ A 2008 Audit committee was formed - members are Kathy Spargo, Cheryl Abney, and Mary Lou Chase. ~ Charlie White and Shirley Channon were named delegates to the DRI Convention. ~ The terms of Employment for the new Rector were discussed and approved.