



the evangelist

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

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hosted by the S.
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Church of S. John the Evangelist

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June 2009

My Dear People:

After a busy first month, I must say that June is no less busy with a number of magnificent feasts and occasions looming before us. The first full week of June finds us observing the Octave of Pentecost or Whitsunday which began on the last day of May. This Octave, which for some odd reason has been suppressed by the modern Church, is very useful in that it reminds us of the power of God's Spirit in the life of the Church. We are exhorted to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we, like the Apostles, will be set on fire with a zeal for doing God's work in bringing souls to Him. So then, we begin our month with the familiar prayer, which is suitable all year round, "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful people and kindle in them the fire of thy love."

The first Sunday in June is the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast has its origin in the English Church, specifically arising out of the popularity of St Thomas Becket. Becket's Consecration and Enthronement as Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 1160's took place on the Octave Day of Pentecost, which in the English Church was observed as a Feast commemorating the very being of God himself The Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity. St Thomas Becket was, and remains, a very popular saint especially throughout Europe. Thus, the feast of his consecration, Trinity Sunday, quickly became a feast for the Universal Church. We shall celebrate Trinity Sunday with the Athanasian Creed in Procession to begin Mass and end with a solemn Te Deum, giving us the opportunity to worship the Trinity and give thanks for all our blessings from God in a particular way.

June 11th, normally S. Barnabas' Day, this year is the Feast of Corpus Christi. As has been our custom, we shall have Sung Mass with Procession of the Blessed Sacrament closing with Benediction at 6.00 p.m. This being my first Corpus Christi at S. John's, I have decided to keep the feast on the day and not on the Sunday in the Octave, as many parishes have been doing in recent decades, if they celebrate it at all! It is my hope that we will all be present at one of the grandest feasts of the Church Year. What we could not rightly celebrate on Maundy Thursday, given the nature of Holy Week, we can now enjoy. In instituting the Sacrament of his own Body and Blood, Christ has given us himself as our food, sustaining us in our journey

of Faith. What's more, he is always with us in a special way, in his living presence in the Tabernacle, a sure refuge of prayer for those who need him most. I'm told we process around the block, weather permitting of course. I hope God will bless us with good weather so that we may witness to Christ's Presence among us in this wonderful Sacrament.

The next grand event, though only from a personal perspective, in our June calendar is my Institution as XIIIth Rector of S. John's which will take place on Monday, June 29th, the Feast of SS. Peter & Paul, App. Mm. Among the many distinguished guests, parishioners, family and friends we'll have with us, I am delighted to welcome both The Dean of Providence, The Very Rev'd Harry Krauss, and The Rev'd Canon Barry E. B. Swain, SSC. Dean Krauss who will preside over the Institution, a legal action which admits the Incumbent into the Living, is a good friend of S. John's; and, has been most helpful to us during the recent Interregnum. Dean Krauss is also an acquaintance of mine; for, he was the Rector of All Saints', Wynnewood, Pennsylvania when I was serving my Title at S. Clement's, Philadelphia.

Our other distinguished guest is Canon Swain, who will be our select Preacher at the High Mass of the Apostles which follows the Institution ceremony. I served my Title with Father Swain from 1993 through 2001. Anything good that I have done in my ministry can be attributed to God first, of course. However, it can also be attributed to the excellent instruction and example of priesthood which I received from Fr Swain. Father has been Rector of Church of the Resurrection, the foremost, and only traditional Anglo-Catholic parish in New York City, since 2001. I am delighted that Fr Swain has consented to preach for us on this occasion. I hope you will greet both of our distinguished guests at the catered reception after Mass. There will be many guests from town and from out of town, on that day. I hope we will all be in attendance to show them the hospitality which I have already experienced in my short time here at S. John's. We're among the best at this sort of thing and I have every confidence that we'll be the consummate hosts on June 29th.

One of the guests present that day will have been with us for the preceding weekend and indeed will have been our guest preacher on Trinity III, June 28th. The Rev'd Dr Robert A. Kerr, SSC is Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain at St Luke's Canterbury-on-the-Lake Retirement Facility in Waterford, Michigan. Father Kerr and I became friends when I went to Michigan from Pennsylvania seven and a half years ago. In addition to his duties in Waterford, Father is also on the faculty of Ashland Theological Seminary, based in Ohio, utilizing his doctorate in Psychology in the instruction of seminarians in Pastoral Theology. I'm sure you'll warm to him as quickly as I have; and, I hope this first visit by Fr Kerr will be but one of many!

The Secret Garden Tour takes place the weekend of June 19-21 here in Newport. S. John's takes part in this annual event and our ladies have organized refreshments for the visitors who will tour the Point those three days. We're always looking for volunteers to show them the church and to help out. All you have to do is ask and I'm sure we'll find something for you to do. That goes for church ministries too, i.e. the Acolytes, Ushers, Coffee Hour, etc. All this, plus our daily Masses, Solemn Evensong & Benediction on Wednesday evenings and other monthly events, means we have a full calendar here at S. John's. There is ample opportunity to be a part of one or all these events; and, I encourage you to do so.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't acknowledge my Rector's Warden, Charles White. All of last month, Charles has lent his expertise and talents in rebuilding the Rectory kitchen. What started out as a simple replacement of cabinets turned into a wholesale rebuilding and remodeling of the kitchen and laundry area. This was an unlooked for project and expense; but, Charles has been unstinting in getting the job done. The finished product is a vast improvement over what was before, as I'll be happy to show you during parish receptions at the Rectory. All of this work, unexpected as it was, has meant unexpected expense. I know I speak for Charles when I say that any donations towards the cost of renovating the kitchen would be most appreciated. Please speak to Charles directly, if you'd like to help out financially.

Having concluded my first month as Rector, I can only say how much I have benefitted from your hospitality and prayers. I love Newport. As I get to know S. John's, I find myself growing in appreciation of the unique ministry which we have to offer the city in particular and the Diocese and Church in general.

*Affectionately, your Friend & Pastor,
Fr Trent Fraser*

NOTICES

INSTITUTION OF FR. FRASER AS XIII RECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The joyous occasion will take place with a Solemn High Mass on Monday evening, June 29th at 6 PM followed by a reception. All parishioners and friends are invited and encouraged to take part.

SECRET GARDEN TOUR & ST. JOHN'S OPEN HOUSE

Newport's Secret Garden Tour on The Point has always been a perfect event in which to showcase the beauty of our parish grounds and church. The Guild Hall has traditionally also served as a "rest stop", making available facilities and seats. Volunteers are requested to staff – please contact Teddi Shaw if you are interested.

This year's tour is scheduled for June 19th through 21st. As an added draw, the Schola will again be offering music in the church on Sunday afternoon from 1 - 3 PM and Fr. Fraser will be on hand in the building in order to answer questions from visitors. Please spread the word and plan to spend a moment absorbing the surroundings and sounds offered by our glorious sanctuary.

CHOIR VISIT - CHRIST COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Time is nearing for the visit of the Choir of Christ College, Cambridge. They will offer Choral Evensong on Saturday, July 4th at 6 PM, and Sung Mass at 10 AM with Choral Evensong & Benediction at 4 PM on Sunday, July 5th. As in previous English Choir visits, we are seeking housing for approximately 30 singers and clergy. Upon their arrival, a traditional Good 'Ole Fourth Bar-b-que will commence to which all are heartily invited as well as an Ice Cream Social on Sunday afternoon. Please contact Charlie about food donations and help with these events.

FAIR ITEMS

It is certainly not too early to be thinking of items in your garage and attic for donation to either the "White Elephant" or clothing tables, or the silent or live auction for our Annual Summer Fair, scheduled for Saturday, August 1st. We will also be soliciting donations from local businesses and individuals for auction . . . great offerings are use of vacation homes, specialized services, or tickets to concerts or sporting events. Please contact Lisa Babbitt or Ann Boyer at SummerFair@saintjohns-newport.org or in person with any offerings or ideas. Also be sure to let us know in what way you would like to help - Thank you.

A GREEN PARISH - DIGITAL EVANGELIST

A digital version of *The Evangelist* is available to be e-mailed to interested members . . . the option of receiving a digital version in lieu of the printed mailer will be available should our "snail-mail" list be reduced enough to make a non-bulk mailing less expensive than the current cost.

With that in mind, please e-mail theevangelist@saint-johns.org with your desire to receive *The Evangelist* in digital form, and perhaps we can save a few trees.

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### ***LITURGICAL MATTERS by Fr Fraser***

In a recent conversation with a visitor, I was asked why our services are so formal. The inquirer was not posing his question in an hostile manner. He was sincerely curious, having never been exposed to Episcopal services that could be termed in any way formal or structured. Indeed, in all of this person's experience, he had never known the liturgy could be formal, like we have here at S. John's. This is sad, because until the last twenty-five years or so, the worship of the Episcopal Church, if not as detailed as ours, was in many ways a dignified and formal affair. Guided by the rubrics and strictures of the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal you could go anywhere in America and be able to identify the common elements of worship in the Episcopal tradition.

Alas, that is no longer even remotely the case. The basic structure of the Liturgy has been abandoned in favour of do-it-yourself worship services from recipe books designed as alternatives to the sources which all Western Liturgies had in common from earliest times. Music too has suffered in that it has been 'dumbed down' from theologically literate and musically uplifting hymnody to praise songs, often too difficult for the average singer, with prosaic texts doing little more than telling God how he is and what he's done as if he is someone whose memory is failing!

I'm not detailing these changes simply to complain. Indeed, complaining gets one nowhere and certainly doesn't advance the Gospel. Not all innovations or traditions which are different from ours are in and of themselves wrong. However, we must be aware that more and more people coming through our doors to worship for the first time are going to have questions

like our recent visitor's; and, we're going to need to at least point them in the right direction with some quick answers. In order to help us do that, I've put in an order for 50 copies of a pamphlet entitled, *Ceremonies of High Mass by Priests of the Society of the Holy Cross*. This is an adaptation of an earlier work which used to be quite common in Anglo-Catholic churches detailing the structure and reasons behind what goes on at a typical High Mass. Although the title says High Mass, it actually is useful for Low Mass as well; and, it is a valuable resource. Once they arrive, we'll be selling them to interested parties for \$2.00. It's a great bargain for such important information!

As of Ascension Day, we've returned to the traditional manner of singing the Gospel at a Sung Mass: that is, the celebrant sings the Gospel from the Gospel Horn out of the Missal, the Acolytes standing on the Pavement with their candles on the Gospel side of the Sanctuary. When we are fortunate enough to have a Deacon or another priest who can act as Deacon we'll have the full compliment of Sacred Ministers and thus the proper Gospel Procession.

Another development will be a revision of the Mass booklet and bulletin to make them user-friendly. The booklet has an undue amount of explanatory text inserted into the liturgical texts themselves; and, I believe it is more important for the Mass texts to be unencumbered with such additions. This is especially true when we've got first time visitors who are struggling to follow the Mass as best they can. To cut down on the amount of book switching, i.e., Mass book, bulletin, Prayer Book or hand Missal, and Hymnal, the bulletin will have not only the Introit, Gradual, Offertory and Communion Verses but also the Collect, Epistle, Gospel and Postcommunion. It will mean a slight restructuring of the bulletin; but, in the end it will produce a smoother liturgical experience not only for visitors but for us as well. The Mass Booklet will take some time to revise; so, look for it's appearance sometime during the Summer months.

**Lest there be any disquietude, our Traditional Catholic Liturgy will continue here at S. John's. There is no plot to subvert the Missal or Prayer Book. What we will be doing is to make things easier for visitors and ultimately to enrich our own worship life. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to speak to me; and, I'll do my best to answer them.**

## A SAINT FOR JUNE

### SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA



There is perhaps no more loved and admired saint in the Catholic Church than **Saint Anthony of Padua**, a Doctor of the Church. Though his work was in Italy, he was born in Portugal. He first joined the Augustinian Order and then left it and joined the Franciscan Order in 1221, when he was 26 years old. The reason he became a Franciscan was because of the death of the five Franciscan protomartyrs — St. Bernard, St. Peter, St. Otho, St. Accursius, and St. Adjutus — who shed their blood for the Catholic Faith in the year 1220, in Morocco, in North Africa, and whose headless and mutilated bodies had been brought to St. Anthony's monastery on their way back for burial. St. Anthony became a Franciscan in the hope of shedding his own blood and becoming a martyr. He lived only ten years after joining the Franciscan Order.

So simple and resounding was his teaching of the Catholic Faith, so that the most unlettered and innocent might understand it, that he was made a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946. Saint Anthony was only 36 years old when he died. He is called the "hammer of the Heretics" His great protection against their lies and deceits in the matter of Christian doctrine was to utter, simply and innocently, the Holy Name of Mary. When St. Anthony of Padua found he was preaching the true Gospel of the Catholic Church to heretics who would not listen to him, he then went out and preached it to the fishes. This was not, as liberals and naturalists are trying to say, for the instruction of the fishes, but rather for the glory of God, the delight of the angels, and the easing of his own heart. St. Anthony wanted to profess the Catholic Faith with his mind and his heart, at every moment.

He is typically depicted with a book and the Infant Child Jesus, to whom He miraculously appeared, and is commonly referred to today as the "finder of lost articles." Upon exhumation, some 336 years after his death, his body was found to be corrupted, yet his tongue was totally incorrupt, so perfect were the teachings that had been formed upon it. His Feast day is **June 13th**.

## **Vestry Notes: Regular Meeting of the S. John's Vestry 21 April 2009**

Present were the Treasurer and members Shirley Channon, John Garagliano, Mary Lou Chase, Cheryl Abney, and Pel Boyer. Absent were Jay Jacot and Frank Jenks.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

- The parish has experienced a net income of \$1,339.96. All bills received been paid, except \$4,872.24, the final cost of Fr. Fraser's move.
- Pledging is ahead and has been this year every week but one.
- The Jimmy Winter Fund has received the \$300 voted by the Vestry from the Bishop's gift for outreach; Stop & Shop gift cards will be bought, as voted, with the remaining \$200.
- The purchase of Easter flowers exceeded the budgeted limit by \$300.

### **Report of the Senior Warden.**

- The Rectory kitchen, in which the countertops were to have been replaced, in fact requires extensive renovation that will take 3 - 4 weeks. Fr. Fraser has been informed. The Treasurer will contact the insurer.
- Fr. Fraser is still seeking a date for his service of Institution.
- The hot-water tank in the church has been replaced.
- The Senior Warden thanked all involved with the Holy Week services but expressed dis-appointment at attendance, reaffirming the need for Vestry attendance at masses and services, not only on Sunday, and to support Fr. Fraser on his arrival.

### **Report of the Junior Warden.**

- The Triduum services were liturgically excellent, but attendance was down.
- Rack cards (donated and arranged by Ted Spargo) have been completed and delivered, thanks to the initiative of Ann Boyer when the design firm went out of business. They can be changed and reprinted on demand.
- Petro Oil is now bidding to recover the parish's business.
- Fr. Fraser plans quickly to restore weekday masses, at 12:15 daily on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; Thursday & Saturday morning masses will remain as at present; Monday will be his day off.

### **Committees.**

- **Summer Fair.** Lisa Babbitt and Ann Boyer will coordinate, in lieu of a chairman. A list of subcommittees was provisionally populated with chairs and members.
- **Hospitality.** A social event in honor of Fr. Burger will be held after the mass on 26 April, with presentations of thanks.
- **Men's Club.** A chicken cordon bleu dinner will be held on 9 May.

### **New Business.**

- A press release prepared by Ted Spargo was approved for insertion in newspapers. A photograph for publication with it has been requested of Fr. Fraser.
- It was moved and voted that a single, sung mass will be celebrated on 3 May, Fr. Fraser's first Sunday. The importance of calling parishioners to inform them was stressed.
- The advisability of restricting a portion of the Parris bequest for building and restoration was discussed and tabled, pending investigation of its feasibility under the terms of the bequest and of DRI policy.
- A check for \$300 has been received from the Swanhurst Chorus.
- A check for \$3,225 has been received from the Webster Fund.