



the evangelist

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

inside...

SCHEDULES & NOTICES
STEWARDSHIP
LECTIONARY & CAL.

DATES TO NOTE

November 1st:
All Saints
**Clocks "Fall Back"
1 hour!**

November 2nd:
All Souls

November 4th:
Parish Supper

November 7th:
Harvest Dinner
5 - 7 PM

November 8th:
Remembrance
Sunday

November 10th:
Vestry Meeting
6:30 PM

November 26th:
Thanksgiving
Sung Mass: 10 AM

December 2nd:
Lessons & Carols
6 PM

Church of S. John the Evangelist

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November 2009

My Dear People,

As both a Life and Council Member of the Guild of All Souls, November's designation as the month of the Holy Souls is very important to me. The Guild of All Souls is a devotional Guild founded in the United Kingdom in 1873 for the promotion of the understanding of the Communion of Saints, and the proper care and respect that ought to be given every Christian soul in death. Its history is unique in that it was organized and directed in its earliest years almost entirely by the Laity. The Church of England had been lax in teaching the proper respect and burial of the dead; and, so the task of the Guild was to point to the Creeds and the Prayer Book as guides for the proper respect paid to the dead. Victorian society had fixated upon ghoulish and bizarre practices surrounding the death of a person. Photographs of the dead in various poses, séances and such were the order of the day. The Guild of All Souls sought to restore the sacred rites that every Catholic Christian ought to receive; for, we believe that the body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit as S. Paul writes, in death awaits the return of the Lord in glory on the Last Day. Thus, Requiem Masses, Vespers of the Dead, and Burial according to the Rites of the Church are to be had whenever a Catholic has died.

The Guild came to this country in 1889 and has been a faithful witness to the Catholic Faith ever since. In happier times, the Guild, together with the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, The Society of Mary and The Society of King Charles the Martyr worked for the strengthening of the Catholic movement in the Episcopal Church. Indeed, until about 15 years ago, the Guild would join with the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament to offer a Requiem during Eastertide, in addition to the Guild's Annual Requiem in November, furthering the witness of both devotional societies. Alas, the years have not been kind to the Catholic movement and we are not what we once were. The Society of King Charles the Martyr and the Guild are the only two devotional societies which remain strongly committed to the Catholic cause within the Episcopal Church; although it has come to my attention that the Society of Mary is returning to prominence after some years of confusion, a development for which we are truly thankful.

A former rector of a once prominent East Coast Anglo-Catholic parish was heard proclaiming that the Guild and other devotional societies' "time had passed" and that they were irrelevant in the modern era. As regards the work of the Guild of All Souls, I would counsel you to look at how modern Western society deals with death. Quite simply, society doesn't know what to do! One has

only to look at the impromptu “shrines” where food, clothes, stuffed toys, etc., are offered as memorials to a person who has died. There is also a kind of mob hysteria, the best examples those of so-called celebrities who while forgotten in life are suddenly made much of in death. Hyperbole and endless obsession on the accomplishments of the person so subjected to this treatment obscure the fact that he or she was a child of God, one hopes, whose soul ought to be commended to his keeping. Of course, with agnostic or atheistic notions running rampant, this societal behaviour has made its way into individual treatments of death, even among church-goers. How often has an inappropriate song or comment been made in services lately? We also have the preposterous declarations, sometimes from clergy, that “Joe is in heaven now” or worse, “Sally has become an angel”.

The most ridiculous and frightening development is how the Church seems to have abdicated its clear teaching on Death for these tidbits of maudlin sentimentalism. Just recently, it came to my attention how the Latin American folk traditions surrounding All Souls Day had been incorporated into a local church’s calendar of events. This event, far from teaching a wider audience about the Church’s treatment of death, encourages the complete abandonment of Christian teaching as exemplified in the making of an “Altar to the Dead” decorated with fruits and gifts in order to help lead the spirits back to their loved ones. The confusion becomes superstition when it is vouchsafed that on All Souls Day the veil between the worlds drops away and a door is opened for the dead to come back and visit their loved ones on earth. In order that they don’t wander about aimlessly, we must make this ritual altar and then partake in a meal complete with the consuming of something called the Bread of the Dead. This is complete nonsense! What’s more, it is deceptive and spiritually dangerous. Every Catholic Christian, and that includes Episcopalians, or at least it did, knows that the members of the Church, on Earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven [Militant, Expectant, Triumphant] are always connected to one another in bonds of love and faith which we call The Communion of Saints. Through Christ Jesus we are members one of another: on Earth we benefit from the prayers of the Mother of God and the Saints interceding for us and we join them in prayer for those who sleep in Christ, who are being prepared to see God face to face. Those who repose

in the Lord are comforted by those prayers, for it is in the mystery of God, tangible in a way we, as members of Christ’s Church here on Earth, cannot yet understand, that they are aware of our love and prayers for them. To put it simply, the faithful departed are always with us in and through the Communion of Saints. At any time and in any place we may call them to mind and we may “communicate” with them in our prayers; assuring them of our continued love, and beseeching them to remember us in the presence of God and the company of the Saints whenever they too join the heavenly choir.

The above examples show more than anything else that the work of the Guild of All Souls is far from irrelevant in the Church today. It is for that reason that I am passionate about this subject and in the activity and welfare of the Guild. Soon after my arrival, the Superior General of the Guild for the United States, Canon Barry Swain, erected a Ward of the Guild here at S. John’s under the title and patronage of S. Nicholas. It is my intention that the Guild begin regular meetings in order to promote its work and to reinvigorate the Catholic witness of the Church in Rhode Island. Our sister parish in Providence, S. Stephen, has been successful in recruiting new members recently; and, I believe it is time to make the S. Nicholas Ward fully active as well. To that end, I am asking for members of the Guild, at S. John’s and those around the Island, to make themselves known to me. If you haven’t joined the Guild or have never heard of it until now, please consider becoming a member. One benefit of membership is perpetual remembrance in our Chantry book which lists all those members who have gone on to join the greater Church in the next life. Please speak to me and I will put you in touch with the Secretary Treasurer, Father John Lancaster, SSC, who will receive your membership dues and enroll you as a member. I should note that our dues are among the lowest of any devotional society. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year or \$20.00 for Life Membership. Fairly shortly, I shall announce an organisational meeting of the S. Nicholas Ward at which any may attend and request membership. It is my hope that many of you will avail yourselves of this chance to become part of an historic devotional guild, one which S. John’s can support with no hesitancy whatsoever.

Affectionately, Your Friend & Pastor,
Fr. Trent Fraser

Stewardship Campaign for 2010

Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess; Grant us grace that we may honour thee with our substance, and remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

One year ago, the Finance Committee met to wrestle with the proposed budget for the 2009 fiscal year. It was a meeting fraught with unknowns. We had no Rector, and had only a proposed schedule for completing the search process. We had no regular Interim Priest, and were relying on the good graces of several men for our ongoing sacerdotal ministries. Finally, we had no hard indications of what our income for 2009 might be, given the host of other very large question marks looming over us.

The discussions of the Committee proceeded in faith, and we were able to present a budget to the Vestry that, while not being fully balanced, ensured that S. John's would be able to meet its financial obligations for 2009 both in terms of personnel (a new Rector) and program (liturgies, ministries and outreach).

The faith of the Finance Committee was not misplaced.

To date, pledge and other income has exceeded the 2009 budget numbers in almost every month. Ordinary expenditures have been kept in check, and most categories will be at or below budget for the entire year. The beneficence of God has been clearly expressed through the generosity of the faithful, and S. John's has weathered another year.

It is now time to turn our eyes towards 2010, and consider again our personal involvement in the ongoing endeavour that is Stewardship here at S. John's. Bearing in mind that Stewardship is *not*, first and foremost, about fundraising, but rather about the practice of caring for the bounty given to us by God, our emphasis this month will be on the practice of pledging, and what that means for us as faithful worshippers at S. John's.

The act of making a financial pledge to the Church is one step in the process of becoming a member of, or maintaining one's membership in, the Parish. That act of pledging must then be followed by giving, or fulfilling that pledge, over the course of the year. The pledge puts you on record as a member, but actual *recorded giving* qualifies you to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Throughout the month of November, topics and information about both the 2009 and 2010 budgets, Stewardship and the 2010 Pledge campaign will be brought before the Parish family in the weekly bulletins, Sunday Forum, and at Mass. In the meantime, we encourage everyone - member, friend, or supporter of S. John's - to prayerfully consider their gift for 2010.

In Christ's Peace,
Jono Babbitt, Stewardship Chair

NOTICES

FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Our Annual Service of Advent Lessons & Carols will be offered by the *S. John's Schola Cantorum* on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6 PM. The service is patterned after that presented at King's College, Oxford and made popular in the United States during the early part of the 20th century. Repertoire will include ancient chant, traditional carols and hymns of Advent, as well as wonderful new settings of older text. Bring a friend! A free-will offering will be taken.

SWANHURST CHORUS AT ST. JOHN'S

Swanhurst Chorus, Newport County's standing choral ensemble for over 80 years, will offer "Christmas from Vienna: An Evening of Bruckner" under the direction of conductor Jonathan Babbitt, Saturday, December 5th at 8:00 PM. The evening will feature Bruckner's lush Mass in f minor as well as his set of Church Graduals, as his Romantic harmonies fill the spaces of The Church of S. John the Evangelist. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22.50 at the door, and \$10 for full-time students. For tickets or information, call 401-682-1630 or visit www.Swanhurst.org.

Sundays

Low Mass at 8.00 a.m. ~ Rector's Forum at 9.30 a.m. ~ Sung Mass at 10.30 a.m.

Weekdays

Tues, Weds & Fri.: Low Mass at 12.15 p.m.; Thurs. at 10.00 a.m., Sat at 9.00 a.m.

Evening Prayer is recited Tues & Thurs-Sat. at 5.30 p.m.

Choral Evensong: Wednesday at 6.00 p.m.

Potluck dinner follows on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Rosary is recited weekly after the Saturday Mass.

- Nov 2nd: **ALL SOULS DAY.** There will be three Requiem Masses today:
Low Requiems at **7.30 a.m. & 12.15 p.m. [Please note the times!]** A Sung Requiem will be offered at **6.00 p.m.**
- Nov 4th: **Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction.** 6.00 p.m. followed by Parish Supper
- Nov 7th: **10th Annual Harvest Dinner:** 5.00 – 7.00 p.m. Tickets are \$14.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children 6-12 years old. Please contact Charles White for tickets. Bring some friends and enjoy a delightful S. John's tradition!
- Nov 8th: **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.** Low Mass of Trinity XXII at 8.00. Rector's Forum: 9.30. Sung Requiem for the Repose of the Souls of the War Dead at 10.30.
- Nov 13-14: Fr Fraser to the Guild of All Souls Annual Meeting at S. Paul's, K Street, Washington DC. No Mass on Friday or Saturday.
- Nov 26th: **THANKSGIVING.** Sung Mass: 10.00 a.m.

LITURGIES FOR NOVEMBER

You will note in last month's *Evangelist* that I published the times for the three Requiems on All Souls Day, Monday, November 2nd and they are repeated above and on the Calendar. At the Solemn Requiem we will offer the plainsong setting, austere yet beautiful, at which we will pray for the names of those submitted with your All Souls envelopes. It is my intention, moreover that all ferial days, i.e. those days which do not have feasts of Saints, will be Requiems. There is also the opportunity to pray for our country and for peace at the Sung Requiem for Remembrance Sunday, November 8th at 10.30 a.m. November 11, 1918, is known throughout the world as the day when The Great War that devastated Europe and brought such suffering as had never been seen before came to an end. The flower of a generation perished in that four year conflict and in the years that followed cenotaphs and other memorials sprung up, not just in Britain and the Empire, but everywhere, commemorating the sacrifice many had made. Sadly, the tenuous peace lasted a mere 21 years before another devastating war. The men and women who gave their lives for their country and for a just society, are remembered in Commonwealth countries (the former British Empire) and in Britain with solemn ceremonies at cenotaphs in large cities and tiny villages. The Church offers the Requiem Mass for the souls of the departed service men and women knowing that they gave their all for Crown, Country and Peace. We here in the U.S. know this date as Veterans Day, although it too was once known as Armistice Day, and we remember those who 'made undaunted the final sacrifice', in the wars and conflicts of not only the last century but, sadly, up to the present day. So then, we will offer the Requiem Mass on November 8th at 10.30 a.m. and I hope you will all be in attendance.

There are two other events which I hope you will make every effort to attend. The first is our Feast of Consecration (or Dedication) on Sunday, November 22nd. This is the 115th Anniversary of the perpetual setting apart of this building as the House of God and the Gate of Heaven by The Right Reverend Henry Codman Potter, Bishop of New York. Our official title, The Zabriskie Memorial Church of S. John the Evangelist, gives the key to our Feast. The original church is our Guild Hall, built soon after the founding of our parish by Peter Quire in 1875. The current building was a memorial to Sarah Jane Zabriskie, built in 1894. There being no debt incurred in the building of this lovely stone church, plans for the dedication and Consecration proceeded apace. It appears the Bishop of Rhode Island, Thomas March Clark, was unable to consecrate the church, so Bishop Potter did the deed. Being the playground of the rich who came up from New York, one imagines Bishop Potter being surprised that Newport wasn't in his jurisdiction to begin with! By the way, this is the exact date of our Consecration, so you won't want to miss this important feast day in our Parish's life.

Following that, there will be a Sung Mass for Thanksgiving Day on November 26th at 10.00 a.m. after a hiatus last year. We'll sing the Willan setting of the Mass, which ought to get us to our various day's events in short order.

Elsewhere, you will see the notice from our Every Member Canvass Campaign. Over the next while you will be hearing from various members of your Vestry, parishioners and myself about what this Parish means in our lives, and what we are willing to do to ensure her mission to save souls continues. Please give this campaign your earnest attention. We have all suffered in the past year, due to the economic downturn; but, that doesn't diminish our need as a Parish for your time, talent and generosity. I came to Newport knowing of your strong bonds of friendship and support for S. John's. I wouldn't have come otherwise. It is my hope to help you continue this Parish's unique mission to Newport, Rhode Island, and beyond; but, that can't happen unless we are all committed to giving of 'our selves, our souls and bodies' to S. John's Church.

Looking ahead, I have accepted Father Swain's invitation to preach at the High Mass of the Feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception at the Church of the Resurrection in New York City on Tuesday, December 8th at 7.00 p.m. Some interest has been expressed in a "Road Trip" to New York; and, I can't think of a better time to have fellowship with traditional Catholics and to enjoy the delights the City offers at that time of year. Look for more information next month.

Kalendar and Intentions for November- The Month of the Holy Souls		
1	ALL SAINTS (<i>Trinity XXI</i>)	Parish
2	ALL SOULS	Those enrolled in the All Souls list this year
3	feria	
4	S. Charles Borromeo, BC (<i>Octave</i>)	Bishops, Priests & Deacons
5	Resumed Mass of Trinity XXI	The Sick
6	Within the Octave (<i>Requiem</i>)	Departed Members of this Parish
7	S. Willibrord, BC (<i>Octave</i>)	The Diocese of Europe (Church of England)
8	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	The War Dead
9	Requiem	Departed Clergy
10	Requiem	Departed Members, Guild of All Souls
11	S. Martin of Tours, BC	Peace in the world
12	Requiem	Departed Members of the SSC
13	feria	
14	Requiem	Departed Priests of the CBS, SKCM, SOM
15	TRINITY XXIII	Parish
16	S. Gertrude, V	
17	S. Hugh, BC	The Church of England
18	S. Hilda, V	Community of St Mary, Greenwich, NY
19	S. Elizabeth of Hungary, QW	The Church in Eastern Europe
20	S. Edmund, KM	All who suffer persecution for the Faith
21	PRESENTATION BVM	Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, UK
22	FEAST OF CONSECRATION (<i>Sunday Next before Advent</i>) [S. Cecilia]	Parish on the 115th Anniversary of Consecration
23	S. Clement, PM	
24	S. John of the Cross, CD	Greater spiritual discipline in our lives
25	St Catherine of Alexandria, VM	Increase in the Religious Life
26	feria	National Thanksgiving
27	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	Asking Our Lady's intercession
28	Requiem	November Chantry
29	ADVENT I	Parish
30	S. ANDREW, Ap.M.	