

Parish Notes



Church of the Holy Cross ✦ Episcopal ✦

Newsletter

December 2011

Advent: Not just a birth; Preparing for a Return

My favorite Advent hymn is #57: Charles Wesley's words set to the tune of *Helmsley* by Augustine Arne. This was the processional for my ordination to the priesthood on the third Sunday of Advent. The first verse goes:

*Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.*

It tells of that time when God in Christ will return to earth as foretold in the Book of Revelation, and that is what we celebrate for the next four weeks: Advent. It is a time when we pray for our deliverance once again, and remember the price paid for our deliverance from sin. As the second and third verses tell us:

*Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.*

*The dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what
rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!*

This is the expectation of Advent, that Christ will return and claim this world. We pray by

remembering events each week of Advent that proceed toward the Nativity at Christmas and wind down that road to Jerusalem at the end of Lent and the beginning at Easter. As the fourth verse proclaims:

*Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,
high on thy eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Everlasting God, come down!*

Fr. Raymond✦

Countdown to Christmas

Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath each week builds our expectations for Christmas, and the birth of the Savior.

Christmas Eve: There will be one service at 6:30 p.m. with Carols, followed at 7 p.m. with the Christmas Eucharist.

Christmas Day: Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, so services will begin at the usual times, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. for the services of the Holy Eucharist.

New Year's Day: Similarly to Christmas, the first Eucharist of the New Year will fall on Sunday. The Feast of the Holy Name will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

HolyCrossMusicNotes

Music for the Soul

Our season of Music closes on Sunday December 11 with Christmas Jazz with the Mark Tatum Jazz Trio. The concert begins with the gathering at 2:30 p.m. with Wine and Cheese, followed by the concert at 3 p.m.

Please take the opportunity to express your thanks to Jennifer Noyer for originating and organizing these events that reach out into the East Mountains and Estancia Valley.

Carol Sing Highlights Christmas

Our Christmas Eve service will resound with the jubilation of a singing of Christmas carols starting at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Carols will be selected by members of the Choir, and all will be asked to join in. If you have favorites, you might like to try to exercise a little influence.



Once Upon a Time ... Santa was St. Nicholas

By the Rev. Steve Caldwell

The Church remembers St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra on December 6th the date of his death in 343 AD.

Nicholas was born in the village of Patara (now Demre, Turkey).

His wealthy parents died in an epidemic. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

In 1626, Dutch merchants founded a town called New Amsterdam on the island of Manhattan in New York. They brought their veneration for Nicolas with them from Belgium. Nicholas' name in Dutch is "Sinterklaas". From that, we get the similar sounding "Santa Claus". Nicholas' miter (a bishop's tall, pointed hat)

became the floppy pointed cap that Santa wears.

To learn more about St. Nicholas, visit:

<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/who-is-st-nicholas/>

To learn more about the origin of Santa Claus, visit:

www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/origin-of-santa/

Planning Ahead for 2012

Vestry Nominations Open

Three positions on the Vestry will be up for election at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, please talk with Father Raymond.

Vestry Needs a Clerk

We have need of someone who would like to attend Vestry meetings to take the minutes. This is an opportunity to help out and be involved. If you're interested, please talk with Father Raymond.

The Annual Meeting

Church of the Holy Cross will gather on Sunday January 29, 2012. There will be one service at 9 a.m. followed by the annual meeting. On the agenda will be the election of three members to the Vestry, ratification of bylaw changes pursuant to the Canonical changes approved at Diocesan Convention, voting on summer service times, and a drawing for prizes (you will have to be present to win).

Prize Drawings Coming Up

The names of those who have fulfilled their pledges by December 31, 2011, will be entered in the drawing. Additionally, those who increase their pledge of support to Holy Cross in the upcoming Stewardship Campaign also will be entered in the drawing. Yes, that means that if you fulfill your pledge for 2011 and increase your pledge for 2012, you have two chances of winning.

5th Annual Chile Cookoff

The annual Chile competition will follow the annual meeting, and vote on the favorite. Cooks begin your preparations. All are eligible.