

THE CHRONICLE

*Grace and Saint Peter's Church
Baltimore's Traditional Anglo-Catholic Parish*

March 2009

From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

March is with us and brings a continuation of the Holy Season of Lent. During Lent we walk in the Way of the Cross, knowing that it is the way of life. During Lent the Rosary is recited at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays before Mass. On Fridays we have Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A light Lenten meal will follow these services. Please speak to Suzanne Meier if you would like to cook or help with a meal. There is no better preparation for Easter than a good Lent. The Stations of the Cross and the Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary bring us to the realization that Christ died for our sins and help us to rejoice in His Resurrection. During Lent save on Rose Sunday the Litany sung in procession preceding the Sunday High Mass. The Litany is another reminder of Lenten penitence.

Lent is also a time of preparation for Baptism. Two children are preparing for Holy Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers. Kendal Clark and Michelle Leung are studying for this wonderful event in their lives. Several other children are preparing for First Holy Communion on Holy Thursday. Daniel Lui and Max Verheyen have already begun their preparation and will be joined by several others.

Please look for the recipe for that mid-Lenten treat for Laetare Sunday, Simnel Cake, which will be found in the Sunday program. We try to have several cakes so that you may sample them on Rose Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent. I call it the Simnel Cake bake-off.

This past Monday the Vestry met with Canon Mark Gatza to discuss Congregational Development. We explored various ways of getting Grace and St. Peter's message out to others. We will share these ideas with you in the near future. It was a very helpful meeting and we are grateful to Canon Gatza for helping us.

The parish directory is on its way to you. I want to thank Robert Zimmerman for his hard work in making this a reality. The envelope is yellow so that you cannot miss it. It is in memory of H. Roy Mock, a long time member of Grace & St. Peter's. He died last year in a car accident. He served for many years as an acolyte.

Please remember that our energy needs are very important at this time. If you can make an extra gift towards our heating expenses it will be much appreciated by our treasurer, Pat Hom, and by the rest of us as well.

I wish us all a Holy Lenten season.

I remain faithfully your priest,

Frederick S. Thomas, SSC
Rector



“Lead Us Not Into Temptation”

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent describes the temptation of our Lord during his forty days in the wilderness. For this reason, the Church has traditionally understood Lent as a season to practice overcoming temptation. The point of the traditional discipline of “giving something up for Lent” is precisely that somewhere along the way we shall be tempted to indulge in whatever it is that we’ve given up. Overcoming temptation strengthens our will and builds our character. Conversely, giving in to temptation teaches us humility and reminds us that we must rely not on our own unaided strength but on the power of the Holy Spirit....

Just as individuals are prone to certain temptations, so are communities. Each parish has its own particular set of temptations. What might be some of our characteristic temptations in our common life here at S. Stephen’s? In naming what I see as some of these temptations, I am not being accusatory. I am as much prone to these temptations as anyone else. Remember, also, the distinction between temptation and sin. I am talking about our temptations, not our sins.

It seems to me that one of our particular temptations is to let aesthetic gratification substitute for the practice of the Christian faith. Here we see a clear instance of the principle that our greatest gifts can become our worst temptations. We are blessed as a parish with first-rate liturgy and music. We are called to offer up that gift to God in genuine worship and praise. The corresponding temptation, however, is to allow the liturgy to degenerate into a form of Sunday-morning entertainment. That is why it’s so important to keep on practicing the hard disciplines of the Christian faith at times other than Sunday morning....

[Another] parish temptation is the search for quick-fix solutions. British theologian Alister McGrath describes this as the “press these buttons and you’ll solve the problem” approach. Implement this stewardship program and watch giving double. Implement this church growth program in five easy steps and watch attendance triple. Such quick fixes tend either not to work, or else to produce results that are impressive but temporary. Moreover, they are temptations to sin precisely insofar as they distract us from the hard work of being faithful to our calling by means of the traditional Christian disciplines of worship, prayer, study, and service. There are no easy solutions to the challenges of attendance, church growth, and stewardship. But the Catholic tradition bestows on us a wealth of spiritual practices that can over time form in us the Christian identity and character necessary to motivate increased attendance and giving among our members, and to attract others to join us.

- *The Rev’d John D. Alexander, SSC*

Father Alexander is Rector of St Stephen’s Church in Providence, Rhode Island. The above is part of a longer article that originally appeared in the February/March 2008 issue of that parish’s newsletter.

LENTEN SERVICES

In addition to the normal daily Mass schedule:

Wednesdays in Lent:

5:30 p.m. Rosary

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Fridays in Lent:

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament,
followed by a light supper.

*Notice: Copies of Pope Benedict’s very helpful Message for
Lent are available on the table at the back of the Nave.*

From Father Speer

Dear Friends,

The Nave is the architectural section of the church building standing farthest west, away from the rising sun. Together with the Chancel or Choir, and the Sanctuary, the Nave stands as one of the three chief sections of the church building. I enter through the narthex (north exit) into the church and I walk into the Nave, the place reserved for the laity, the people of God. The Nave is often separated from the side aisles by columns or pillars, as is the case in Grace and Saint Peter's.

The three-part design of the church building replicates the design of the ancient Second Temple where Jesus was presented at the age of 40 days, where he conversed with the doctors of the law, and where he taught. The Temple consisted of the Court of the Gentiles, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies.

When I enter the Nave from the west end of the church I find myself in a wide and high space. The space feels wide because as I look east toward the high altar and the east window, the building appears to become narrower and longer as I look forward. I also receive a sense of height and expanse by virtue of the high and vaulted ceiling above me.

More subtle and so gentle that I do not even notice it, is the effect the architect gains by raising the level of the Choir a few steps above the level of the Nave. I raise the level of my gaze. As I do this, my soul follows in an upward motion. The outward and visible sign of the design of the building is followed by the inward and spiritual grace that points toward the Holy. In the beginning of Psalm 121 David sings, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

Two derivations of the word Nave appear. Notice the Latin "*navis*" meaning ship. The church is the ship of God in which we sail safely through the waves and storms of everyday life. In Psalm 107 David sings that the people of Israel are like merchants sailing in ships over dangerous waters, who finally rest in a peaceful haven. Jesus sleeps in a small fishing vessel and is at peace even during the storm. Also, Nave belongs to the Greek "*vaos*" meaning temple. At Psalm 122 David sings, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord."

It is good for us to know the traditional names for the sections of the church building. Let us pray that when we enter the Nave of the church building, God the Holy Ghost, by means of the skill of the gifted architect, will lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

*Father Speer
Priest Associate*

March Music

March 1 – Lent I

Missa a 4 voci - Giovanni Grossi
Ah! Thou Poor World - Johannes Brahms
O Most Merciful - Charles Wood

March 8 – Lent II

Communion Service in E Minor - Leo Sowerby
Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake - John Hilton
A Hymn to God the Father - John Hilton

March 15 – Lent III

Missa L'Hora Passa - Ludovico Grossi da Viadana
Teach Me Thy Ways, O Lord - Edmund Hooper
Almighty God - Nathaniel Giles

March 22 – Lent IV – Rose Sunday

Modal Service - Martin Shaw
If We Believe That Jesus Died - John Goss
Turn Thy Face From My Sin - Thomas Attwood

March 29 – Passion Sunday

Missa Brevis in D Minor - Antonio Lotti
Hear My Prayer - Felix Mendelssohn

March Mass Intentions

March is the Month of St Joseph

1 LENT I	Our Parish Family
2 Feria (St Chad, BC)	The Church in the United Kingdom
3 Feria (St Aelred)	Religious Orders
4 Ember Day	Seminarians
5 Feria	A holy Lent
6 Ember Day	Pope Benedict
(SS Perpetua and Felicity, VV MM)	
7 St Thomas Aquinas, CD (Ember Day)	Eugene our Bishop
8 LENT II	Our Parish Family
9 Feria (St Frances of Rome, W)	The Church in Italy
10 Feria (Forty Martyrs of Sebaste)	Faithfulness of life
11 Monthly Requiem	The Departed
12 St Gregory the Great, PC (Feria)	The Holy Liturgy
13 Feria	The All Saints Sisters
14 Feria	The Joseph Richey Hospice
15 LENT III	Our Parish Family
16 Feria	John, our Bishop
17 Feria (St Patrick, BC)	The Church in Ireland
18 Feria	The sick
19 ST JOSEPH (Feria)	For holiness in family life
20 Feria (St Cuthbert, BC)	The Scottish Church
21 ST BENEDICT (Feria)	For Benedictines
22 LENT IV	Our Parish Family
23 Feria	Growth in holiness
24 St Gabriel the Archangel (Feria)	St. Gabriel's Retreat House
25 ANNUNCIATION BVM (Feria)	Annunciation of Our Lady Church, Marble Arch, London
26 Feria	Amendment of life
27 Feria	For those to be Baptized
28 Feria	The First communion class
29 PASSION SUNDAY	Our Parish Family
30 Feria	The Society of the Holy Cross
31 Feria	Grace & St. Peter's School

Daily Mass Schedule

Sunday

7:45 a.m. Matins & Low Mass

10:00 a.m. High Mass

5:00 p.m. Evensong

Monday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Tuesday

12:00 Noon Low Mass and Holy Unction

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Friday

8:45 a.m. Sung Mass

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Saturday

12:00 Noon Low Mass

Grace and Saint Peter's Church

The Rev'd Frederick S. Thomas, SSC, Rector

707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

401-539-1395

www.graceandstpeter.org