

THE CHRONICLE

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

November 2009

From the Rector

Dear friends in Christ,

November is the month of the Holy Souls and heralds the end of the Church Year by speaking to us of the last things, that is, death, judgment, heaven and hell. The readings urge us to be prepared for the second coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Bishop of Durham, The Rt. Rev'd N.T. Wright in his book, describes the last things as "Surprised by Hope." That is the title of his book and it reminds that we are all called by Christ into the Resurrection. That is the hope of God's call to us in His Resurrection.

All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Souls Day (November 2nd) set the tone for the entire month. We think about those who have gone before us. We pray for our loved ones on All Souls, and we thank God for those who have been the "chosen vessels of thy grace and the lights of the world in their several generations" on All Saints. We hope that they will remember us in their prayers. You will notice that there are several Requiems during the month. Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on All Saints Day. That day, William Reinhardt Epp, son of Laura and Adam Epp, will be Baptized in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and incorporated into the Body of Christ. Please join us in welcoming a new Christian. On All Souls Day there will be Low Mass at 11:30, 12:00, and 12:30. You may come for all three or only one. High Mass and Absolution take place in the evening at 6:00 p.m. Remembrance Sunday (November 8th) falls three days before Armistice Day this year. We remember those who have died in the service of their country. There will be a Solemn Requiem at the High Mass that Day. On Saturday November 14th I have been invited to preach at the Annual Requiem Mass of the Guild of All Souls at St. Paul's, K Street, in Washington. The High Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. and all are encouraged to attend. I am a member of the Guild's Council.

Preparation for the kingdom of God should include reception of the sacraments and due consideration to both our mortal remains and a sense of good stewardship of our resources. This is a reminder to please send in your pledge card. If you do not have one or have not filled out one you should receive one shortly. Due consideration of our mortal remains means making plans. A will and proper funeral directions are important. I am enclosing Father Garfield's excellent guide to making funeral arrangements. Each person should have directions on file with the parish office. The parish maintains a memorial fund. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a relative or friend who has died, an acknowledgment will be sent to the family of the person memorialized. If you would like the person remembered at the Eucharist, Mass cards are available which may be sent to the family of the person for whom the Mass is offered.

The Solemnity of Christ the King falls on Sunday the 22nd of November. It is a reminder that as the Ascension completes Easter, so the celebration of our Lord's Kingship invites us to reaffirm Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Thanksgiving Day is on the 26th of November. There will be a High Mass on the Eve of Thanksgiving at 6:00 p.m. and a Low Mass on Thanksgiving Day itself. Please use the month of November to bring in canned goods for the Franciscan Center.

You may place them on the Epistle side front pew. The school and the church both contribute to this effort. Advent Sunday is on the 29th of November. The old Church year ends and the new begins in November this year. Please begin to make your Christmas memorials for music and flowers for the celebration of the Nativity.

There are two future events I should like you to put on your calendar. The first is the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. We are delighted that Bishop John Rabb will be with us to preach. High Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday the 8th of December. The second event is the on Saturday January 30th for the Feast of King Charles the Martyr. The High Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. The National Society of King Charles the Martyr will be with us. It is an honor for us to host the Society's Mass. The Rev'd Canon Gordon Reid of St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia will be the morning's preacher. Fr. Reid is a good friend and it will be delightful to have him with us. Bishop Rabb will be with us as well. There will be luncheon after Mass. Please call the parish office for luncheon reservations. The cost for the luncheon is \$15.

I hope that November will be a time for reflection on our life as Christians. Remember that we are called into the Christian family by our baptism. The baptismal life must be lived out with joy and affection for one another, knowing that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses which no man can number. The Saints, in their joy, watch over each of us to strengthen us by their prayers to do the Lord's work in this place.

I remain faithfully your priest,

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

“Where is Your Father Now?”

By the Rev'd H. A. Wilson, vicar of St Augustine's, Haggerston, London

To Stanley, aged ten, recently bereft of his father.

Where is your father now? “I believe,” you say in the Creed ... and that people in church say aloud together “in the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” Let's think together about what these great old words mean.

The Church is not a building, like St. Augustine's; it is a society, a club, a fellowship. Its members are those who have been baptized. And it is not only in this world. Once a Christian, always a Christian; once a member of the Church, always a member of the Church, even beyond your mortal body's death. In this world the Church is Militant. “Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant (military, fighting) here in earth,” says a priest at the altar. To it belongs every baptized person whose soul is still living in his or her body. But your father's life on earth has come to an end. His soul and body have been separated. But his life has not ceased. He still lives, and will always live, somewhere. And he is still, as he always will be, a member of the

Church. He was a good man. Has he gone to hell – the place of eternal misery and punishment, intended only for those who have no use for God and the things of God, who deliberately chose not to be good here? Of course he has not.

Then, has he gone to heaven? I do not think so; and I do not believe that you think so either. For heaven is the place of absolute perfection, in which there is neither sin nor any trace of it. Please God, your father will reach heaven one day; but I think that, *just because* he was a good man here, he himself would be the first to say that he does not deserve to go there – *yet*. Our Lord teaches that the “faithful departed” go at death to a place between earth and heaven, that is neither; and that there they are, as you might say, in A Souls’ Hospital, being made fit for the heaven that they have earned. This is The Church Waiting – or, as it is sometimes called, Expectant (which means the same thing) – in paradise or purgatory (“purging,” “purifying,” “cleansing”). But it is still the same One Holy Catholic Church. And the Church in heaven is The Church Triumphant, The Church Victorious; the glorious company of the holy angels and the Church’s heroes and heroines (Our Lady, St. Augustine, St. George, St. Michael, and all the rest): still in the same one Church, founded by our Lord, for all people everywhere at all times – this is what “Catholic” means – both on this side of death, and on the other side of it: God’s great one family. So you see what is meant by “The Communion of Saints.” “Communion” means “fellowship.” “Saints” means “the baptized,” in whatever part of the Church they are. The Lord Jesus is the elder brother of us all. All the baptized, in this world, in purgatory, in heaven, are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our Lord once said that the Church is like a house. It has three floors: militant, expectant, triumphant; but it is all under one roof. On the ground floor are you and I; militant against, fighting against, sin and temptation. On the first floor are the holy dead, the faithful departed, in God’s hospital, being made perfect and fit for heaven; and we here can help them very much by going to Requiem Masses (“may they rest in peace”) on their behalf, and by saying our prayers for them. It may also be – and I think it most likely – that they too are helping us by their prayers, though we cannot be quite sure of this yet. On the top floor, up in the sunlight, always seeing God face to face, are the members of The Church Triumphant; the men and women, boys and girls, who were once people in this world, just like us, but have now done with fighting, have won the battle, have lost all trace of sin and imperfection, and are young and well and happy again in the visible presence of God – and know that they will never, throughout eternity, leave him. We are in communion and fellowship with them too. We do not pray for them: there is no need. But we often ask them, our brothers and sisters, to pray for us – and for our dead on the middle floor – that we may all one day be where they are. ...

“The Resurrection of the body.” This means your body, old boy, and your father’s too. Not only our Lord’s body on Easter Sunday; it was earlier in the Creed that you said that you believed in the resurrection of that. But yours; and mine. Because we are Christians, we believe that some day and some how, after death, our souls and bodies will come together again, and be reunified for ever. St. Paul has written a lot about this; you will read about it when you are older. ... So, you see, you need have no fear of you and your dad being unable to recognize one another when you meet again on the top floor. So, cheer up, old man. That same St. Paul says that, because we are Christians, we are not to be “sorry, as men without hope” for those who have

died. Because we are men, and because we had – and still have, and always will have – such fathers, we are to be always their good sons, living the sort of lives they would have us live, forgetting them never. All will be well, in God’s good time. Keep smiling. You have not lost your dad. God never wastes anything that he has made; and he made you and him. No love is ever lost; for “God is love.” God simply loves your love of him, and of your father. Go on loving both, until this life of yours ends too; and then you will find, as have millions of Christians before you, that it is all right – and always was all right, really.

*From Fr Wilson’s book **East Window**. Fr Wilson was noted for his many publications, including the famous Haggerston Catechism and his descriptions of life in an East End London parish. Early in his ministry he was involved in the Anglo-Catholic Congresses in 1920 and 1923.*

From Father Speer

Stained glass windows provide a prism through which the Father sends to us in the Church the Gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord. We have noticed on the west end of Grace and St Peter’s the first three of the four panels under the majestic Ascension window. We now notice the fourth panel. The single halo gracing the head of the adult Jesus balances the single halo in panel one gracing the head of the youth Jesus. From our side we look into the home of a privileged Victorian matron. By means of converging lines the artist and glazier provide depth from our point of view to the far side of the room and out the window. In the distance we see the buildings and towers of the city. In this panel we see Jesus the authority, the teacher, seated and instructing handsome and mature Victorian women. Let us read the story from left to right. On the left, respectfully opposite the seated Jesus stands the Victorian matron, fully dressed in blue with regal headdress, her fingers counting the beads on the longest of her three pearl necklaces. Her right hand is placed downward on a household column, her eyes modestly cast down. Now to Jesus, seated to the right. In this final panel he replaces the respected and authoritative doctor of the law seated in panel one. Jesus now wears the robe of deep crimson, worn by the doctor of the law in panel one as he listens to the youth Jesus, held by an attendant in panel two during the baptism of Jesus, and worn by Jesus as he speaks with Martha and Mary in panel three. Jesus gestures with his hands. With his left hand Jesus points to himself and with his right hand Jesus points upward to the Father. Unlike the first three New Testament texts, which are from Luke, the text below the fourth panel is from John, chapter 4. The Victorian matron became the Samaritan women with whom Jesus converses. The woman tells Jesus, “Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.” Jesus tells her, “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither on this mountain nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father.” At John 4:24, Jesus says “God is Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” The woman says “I know that the Messiah cometh which is called Christ. When he is come he will tell us all things.” Jesus says, “I that speak unto thee am he.”

*Father Speer
Priest Associate*

November Kalendar and Mass Intentions

November is the Month of the Holy Souls

1 ALL SAINTS	Our Parish Family
2 ALL SOULS	All the Faithful Departed
3 Octave	John our Bishop
4 St Charles Borromeo, BC	Pope Benedict
5 Octave	Eugene our Bishop
6 Octave	The All Saints Sister of the Poor
7 Octave	All Saints Church, Margaret Street, London
8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	The War Dead
9 Dedication of the Archbasilica of Our Saviour	The Church in Italy
10 Requiem	Our Benefactors
11 St Martin, BC	A lively Faith
12 Requiem	Departed clergy of Grace & St. Peter's
13 Requiem	The departed members of Grace and St. Peter's
14 Requiem	All the Faithful departed
15 PENTECOST XXIV	Our Parish Family
16 St Gertrude, V	For women religious
17 St Hugh of Lincoln, BC	For English religious
18 Monthly Requiem	All the faithful departed
19 St Elizabeth of Hungary, QW	The Church in Hungary
20 St Edmund, KM	The Church of England
21 Presentation BVM	Devotion to the Mother of God
22 CHRIST THE KING	Our Parish Family
23 St Clement, PM	St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia
24 St John of the Cross, C	The gift of Faith
25 EVE OF THANKSGIVING DAY	The Church in Africa
26 Thanksgiving Day	Our many blessings
27 Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	Increased use of the Holy rosary
28 Vigil of St Andrew	Apostolic Zeal
29 ADVENT I	Our Parish Family
30 ST ANDREW, Ap. M	The Church in Scotland

ALL SOULS DAY – Monday, November 2

Low Masses: 11:30, 12:00, and 12:30

High Mass: 6:00 p.m.

EVE OF THANKSGIVING – Wednesday, November 25

High Mass: 6:00 p.m.

November Music

1 November

All Saints

Missa O Quam Gloriosum – Tomas Luis de Victoria

O Quam Gloriosum – Tomas Luis de Victoria

Holy Is The True Light – William Henry Harris

2 November

All Souls

Monday, 6:00 PM

Missa pro defunctis a 4 – Cristobal de Morales

8 November

Remembrance Sunday

Missa pro Defunctis a 4 – Cristobal de Morales

15 November

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Missa Brevis No. 6 in F Minor (after Bach) – Healey Willan

Lead Us, Heavenly Father – Roger Quilter

Never Weatherbeaten Sail – Thomas Campion

22 November

Christ The King

Missa della battaglia – Giovanni Francesco Anerio

Dominus Regit Me - Carl Nielsen

God Omnipotent Reigneth – Charles Wood

25 November

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, 6:00 PM

Mass Of The Quiet Hour – George Oldroyd

Give Alms Of Thy Goods – Christopher Tye

Jubilate – HRH Prince Albert

29 November Advent I

Mass Of The Quiet Hour – George Oldroyd

O Thou The Central Orb – Orlando Gibbons

Adam Lay Ybounden – Boris Ord

Weekly 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