

THE CHRONICLE

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

October 2009

From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ:

September brought with it the return of Grace and St. Peter's School. We have gotten off to a good start. It is wonderful to have the children back and hard at work. The fourth grade class are taking turns reading at chapel and serving on Fridays. Bishop Rabb made his visitation the Solemnity of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 20th. He preached a wonderful sermon on our Lady's sorrows and we had a lovely reception. It was delightful to have him with us and he will be back to preach on the Immaculate Conception on December 8th.

We have much going on during the month of October. The first will be the blessing of pets on October 2nd at four o'clock. The blessing will take place at the Monument street entrance. We always have all sorts of pets with us. Bring your dog, cat, or canary and come. We even have some goldfish from time to time as well as hamsters. The first Sunday in October is the Feast of the Dedication of the Church. The annual Parish Meeting will take place after the 10 am High Mass. Brunch will be served. There will be no charge for Brunch. We will hear reports from various people about the Church and vote for the new Vestry members. Please turn out for this important day in our life together. The nominees for the Vestry are Adam Barner, Steve Bartley, Robert Kingery, Fay Lee, Nona Porter, and Frank Summerville. The 18th of October is the Feast of St. Luke. It falls on a Sunday this year so we are going keep it then. We give thanks for St. Luke the Evangelist and his wonderful Gospel. It contains many beautiful passages including the canticles known as the *Magnificat*, *Nunc Dimittis*, and the *Benedictus Dominus Deus*.

The last thing too look for in your newsletter is the form for All Souls Day on November 2nd. It is important to get your all Souls Day names in and make plans to come to Mass on the day. We, like St. Monica, desire to have our loved ones remembered at the Altar.

I hope that your early fall is going well.

I remain faithfully yours,

The Rev'd Frederick S. Thomas, SSC
Rector

From Father Speer

Stained glass windows preach the Gospel to us when the Father sends his sunlight to illuminate them from the heavens and we stand inside his House in order to read them. The third panel from the left on the west end of Grace and Saint Peter's under the Ascension window preaches the Gospel of Jesus in words and actions. The three haloes in this panel balance the three haloes in the second panel. Sit in Martha's house along with Martha and Mary and Jesus. Look out through the window in the middle of the picture and see the buildings of the city in the distance. See also a pair of doves perched at the top of the window. These balance the dove in the second panel. As you look out from the room through the window, you gain perspective and distance between Martha's house and the city in the distance.

Three figures present themselves, one standing and the other two seated. Two speeches tell the story. Martha stands in the upper left hand corner. Her hair gathered in a bun for working, she carries an urn, a usual household utensil. In the first speech, Martha complains to Jesus that "my sister" is merely sitting, taking time off, and not working. "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me." Martha attempts to hook Jesus into chastising Mary on Martha's behalf. Martha wants Jesus to take her side against Mary. Martha is not ready to speak directly to Mary; instead, she speaks about Mary to Jesus. Now to Mary. Seated in the lower left hand corner of the panel, she quietly listens to both speeches, her hair falling long and casual over her shoulders, wearing her blue robe.

See Jesus on the right. Seated in the attitude of authority, he gestures with his left hand toward Mary and with his right hand upward toward God the Father. Jesus does not take Martha's hook to chastise Mary. He speaks the words printed below the panel. Jesus speaks Martha's name twice, repeating it for emphasis. What does Jesus say? Open your New Testament and find his gentle advice at Luke 10:41 & 42. Substitute your own Christian name twice where Jesus says, Martha, Martha. Finally to the robe Jesus wears. It is deep crimson, the color of blood and life. In the first panel, where Jesus speaks with the doctors of the law, a seated doctor of the law wears his robe of authority. In the second panel, where John baptises Jesus, the robe of authority is in transition, held by an attendant. Now in the third panel, Jesus sits wearing this robe of authority.

Father Speer
Priest Associate

October Kalendar and Mass Intentions

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

1 St Regimus, BC	The Church in France
2 Holy Guardian Angels	All Children
3 St Therese of the Child Jesus, V	Holy Lives
4 FEAST OF THE DEDICATION	Our Parish Family
5 Feria	The Joseph Richey Hospice
6 St Bruno, C	Religious Orders
7 MOST HOLY ROSARY BVM	Pope Benedict
8 St Bridget, W	The Church in Ireland
9 St Denys, BM	Bishop Rabb
10 St Francis Borgia, C	Bishop Sutton
11 PENTECOST XIX	Our Parish Family
12 Feria	The All Saints Sisters
13 St Edward the Confessor, KC	The Church of England
14 Monthly Requiem	The Faithful departed
15 St Teresa, V	The Carmelites
16 St Hedwig, W	The Church in Germany
17 St Margaret Mary Alacoque, V	Devotion to the Sacred Heart
18 ST LUKE, Ev. M (PENTECOST XX)	Our Parish Family
19 St Frideswide, V	Devotion to the English Saints
20 St John Cantius, C	The Church in Poland
21 St Ursula and Companions, VV MM	The Ursulines
22 Feria	The Society of the Holy Cross
23 Feria	Nashotah House
24 St Raphael the Archangel	Thanksgiving for the Holy Angels
25 PENTECOST XXI	Our Parish Family
26 Feria	A lively faith
27 Vigil	Thanksgiving for Apostolic Faith
28 SS SIMON & JUDE, App MM	The Catholic Clerical Union
29 Feria	Grace and St. Peter's School
30 Feria	Christian Orthodoxy
31 Vigil of All Saints	Holy Living

What is the Rosary?

By Father Barry Swain

So many people have a deep yet vague yearning: a yearning for what they call “spirituality”, and yet find that the churches with which they come into contact offer little in the line of personal spirituality which can be deepened at home, in an office or a factory, on a train or a bus, or as we lie awake waiting for sleep.

With the Rosary we have a method of private prayer, based on mostly Scriptural incidents, which can be said, all or part, at any time and in any place. No book is required once one has memorised and understood the mysteries, and the beads themselves are not even, strictly speaking, necessary. It can be begun at any point and stopped at any point. It requires no particular intelligence, no mastering of a liturgical form, no other people present, and there is no expectation that it will be said on any particular schedule. Above all, perhaps, it cultivates the habit of personal private prayer and meditation. While on one level we pray the very familiar Biblical prayers over and over, the mind is free to range over the mystery itself. As we become more adept at it, we begin to see the scene of each mystery and new angles suggest themselves. There is no particular need to explore some Oriental method of meditation or prayer borrowed from another religion. We have our own. There is even a physical benefit for our body conscious society: in tests done on nuns a few years ago while saying the Rosary, their blood pressure dropped significantly after only a few minutes, and remained low for quite a while thereafter!

Of course, the great reason for the Rosary is importance of the mysteries themselves. At each one, the drama of salvation unfolds and a new chapter begins. Each tableau not only shows the life and ministry of Our Lord and Our Lady, but also, because they are intensely human, remind us of events in our own lives. Everyone identifies with the concepts of Joy, Sorrow and Glory, everyone understands that, for example, even if we have not lost a child to death [as Our Lady did], we certainly know what grief is. Even if we have never seen an Angel, we know what it is to feel that we are suddenly very connected with God in a special way.

For Christians, the Rosary is a special prayer, for it aims to do exactly what we aim to do: construct a chain ladder with God’s help to Heaven for ourselves to ascend and be with him. It is a golden chain because it is constructed with prayer, because it has Our Lord at its centre, and because it encourages us to follow Him, as we see his Mother doing, because we realise all the time the role that she played in leading the way for all humanity to follow.

In each of the mysteries there is much for the Christian to consider. In this first meditation, we examine the mysteries of Joy. Certainly every Christian must understand what Joy is. One of the saddest spectacles of church life is to encounter a person who has forgot what Joy can be and do. The Christian life, the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady are shot through with Joy. The second set of mysteries are the Sorrowful Mysteries. Each of us, unless we are still very young, knows what sorrow is, and we know its burden. What the Rosary teaches us is that Our Lord knew these burdens too, has shared them with us, and continues to share them with us. The Glorious Mysteries show us the outcome of the Christian pilgrimage: those who have walked with Jesus and known joy, and suffered with him, will find transfiguring glory with him. We should never forget this as we struggle along.

The Rosary begins always with the Apostles' Creed, the statement of belief in Baptism. It then proceeds to each of the mysteries under consideration (normally a set of five at any one time – the joyful, sorrowful or glorious. Each of these mysteries is announced with a brief thought or two, and then the Our Father is said, and ten Hail Marys, the officiant saying the first part of each, the congregation saying the second part. Each mystery ends with the Glory be. When the set of five mysteries is finished, we take a moment of silence to recollect our intentions, and pray again for what is on our minds. Finally, we end with the prayer Salve Regina.

The Joyful Mysteries:

1. The Annunciation: An Angel asks Our Lady to be the Mother of God
2. The Visitation: Our Lady goes to help her cousin Elisabeth
3. The Nativity: The Christ Child is born
4. The Presentation: Our Lady and St Joseph offer their Child to God in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple: The Lost Child Jesus is discovered speaking to the Doctors

The Sorrowful Mysteries:

1. The Agony in the Garden: The disciples fall asleep as Jesus prays
2. The Scourging at the Pillar: Jesus is arrested and scourged
3. Crowning with Thorns: Jesus is humiliated
4. Carrying of the Cross: Jesus must carry the instrument of his execution
5. The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries:

1. The Resurrection: On the third day, Jesus rises from the dead, destroying sin and death
2. The Ascension: Forty days later, he ascends to heaven to prepare a place for us

3. The Coming of the Holy Ghost: The Holy Ghost descends on Our Lady and the Apostles
4. The Assumption: At the end of her life, Mary is taken by the angels to be with her Son
5. The Coronation of the Virgin: Jesus rewards Mary for her faithfulness, as one day we pray he will reward us

There are many easily obtainable devotional books in which the method of praying the Rosary are explained. The Rosary is offered at Grace and St Peter's each Wednesday during Lent. If you are interested in more frequent recitation of the Rosary please speak to Father Thomas.

Father Swain is Rector of the Church of the Resurrection in New York. Many will remember that he has been a guest preacher at Grace and St Peter's several times.

October Music Schedule

4 October – Feast of the Dedication

Missa Secunda - *Hans Leo Hassler*
Ecce Quam Bonum - *Hans Leo Hassler*
I Did In Heart Rejoice - *Giles Farnaby*

11 October – Pentecost XIX

Missa L'Hora Passa - *Ludovico Grossi da Viadana*
Exultate Justi In Domino - *Ludovico Grossi da Viadana*
O Sacrum Convivium - *Ludovico Grossi da Viadana*

18 October – Feast of Saint Luke

Missa a 4 voci - *Giovanni Grossi*
Give Almes Of Thy Goods - *Christopher Tye*
Praise Ye The Lord, Ye Children - *Christopher Tye*

25 October – Pentecost XXI

Missa Brevis - *Andrea Gabrieli*
Teach Me, O Lord - *William Byrd*
Lead Me, Lord - *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

Daily Mass Schedule

Sunday

7:45 a.m. Matins & Low Mass

10:00 a.m. High Mass

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

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