

# **THE CHRONICLE**

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

**September 2008**

## From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ:

As my sabbatical winds down and I turn 60, I look forward to two favorite events that happen in September. One is the return of Grace and St. Peter's School on the Wednesday after Labor Day. I always find that an exciting time. I always think that in minutes the Christmas pageant will take place because the fall moves at such a fast pace.

The other is the return of our choir on the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This year it falls on a Sunday and that makes it even better. The beautiful vestments in memory of Father Garfield are used for Mass, which coupled with the return of the choir make a great day in our parish life.

I am planning to be away for a couple of days in September for the Synod of the Society of the Holy Cross at St. Anthony of Padua, Hackensack, New Jersey and at Resurrection New York. It is all one trip. This trip will take place in the middle of the month.

I have learned that our new Bishop will be with us on October 12, and I hope that everyone will turn out to welcome him. This also reminds me that if you have not turned in nominations to the Vestry please speak to the nominating committee or to Fr. Truiett.

I have enjoyed the time I have spent among the people of Christ Church, Cambridge Maryland. I especially like going out to breakfast after the 8 am Sunday Mass. I have made some good friends over on the eastern shore.

I hope that you all had a refreshing and productive summer. I want to thank all those who have helped to make my sabbatical a time of rest. I especially want to thank Fr. Speer and Fr. Truiett.

I remain faithfully yours,

*Frederick S. Thomas*

## September Music

### 14 September – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*Missa della battaglia* - Anerio  
*Adoramus te, Christe* - Monteverdi  
*Cantate Domino* - Monteverdi

### 21 September – Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, and Martyr

Mass in C - Galuppi  
*Insanae et vanae curae* - Haydn  
God is our refuge - Mozart

### 28 September – Pentecost XX

The Short Service - Batten  
Teach me, O Lord - Byrd  
Teach me thy way, O Lord - Hooper

## From the Director of Music

On Sunday, 14 September, the Grace and St. Peter's choir will open its 2008-2009 season at 10:00 AM Solemn High Mass in observance of The Triumph of the Holy Cross. Music will include the *Missa della battaglia* of Giovanni Francesco Anerio (1567-1630) and motets of Claudio Monteverdi (1576-1643) composed specifically for this same feast-day around 1620. Continuo accompaniment will be provided by John Armato (theorbo) and Andrew Arceci (Viola da Gamba) and John Martin Marks will direct from the harpsichord.

The great music continues the next week with the *Mass in C* of Baldassare Galuppi (1706-1785), the exciting *Insanae et vanae curae* by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and *God is our refuge* by the young Wolfgang Mozart (1756-1791) -- his only work composed for English words. Watch for announcements of other great things to come from our choir.

A big "thank you" goes out to our summer cantors, Lien-Ying Liu, Megan Amoss, George Bareford, Ralph Gaston, and Ed Schneider for singing the propers while the choir was on vacation, and also to choir member Steve Heaver for substituting at the organ.

## Saint Michael and All Angels

Do you know in what way we got the feast of the Archangel Michael on September 29<sup>th</sup>? It happened on this wise, so the ancient traditions tell us. About the year 492 a wealthy cattle-herder who lived near Manfredonia in Italy, Gargon by name, lost a valuable bull. On search being made for it, it was found in a cave, wounded with an arrow. There seemed such mystery about the affair, and Gargon, being a devout man and a friend of the bishop of the place, asked that a triduum of prayer be kept to ascertain what it meant.

Before the three days had expired, St Michael appeared to the bishop, and told him that the cave where the bull had lain was sacred to him, and demanded that a church be built over it. This the bishop did, and it was consecrated on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The story of the bull is not to be received as historical, but it is a fact that about that year the church of St Michael on Mount Gargona was consecrated with such splendor that the imagination of the whole Christian world was impressed by the story of it, and the day of consecration was adopted as the principal feast of the angels as we have it today in the kalendar.

St Michael has always profoundly impressed the imagination of the Catholic Church, and he is the only one of the archangels whose commemoration has been retained in our Prayer Book kalendar. Although St Gabriel is the angel of the Incarnation, no day is assigned to his honor. St Michael is mentioned in the New Testament by St Jude as protecting the body of Moses from Satan, and in the book of Revelation he is said to have been the leader of the celestial armies in the war in heaven which followed upon the rebellion of Lucifer. In the book of Daniel, in the Old Testament, he is represented as the guardian angel of the Jewish nation.

He has been specially honored in the Church from the beginning. No fewer than twelve festivals are kept for him in our time in various parts of Christendom. The Greeks commemorate him on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the Copts keep a triduum of prayer in his honor on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Among the Abyssinians the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month of the year is consecrated as a feast of St Michael.

The Rev'd Shirley C. Hughson, O.H.C.

*Athletes of God*

Father Hughson was a prolific writer, priest, and member of the Order of the Holy Cross

## September 2008

*September is the Month of the Holy Cross*

1 St Giles, Ab	Monastic vocations
2 St Stephen of Hungary, KC	The Church in Hungary
3 St Pius X, PC	Pope Benedict
4 Feria	A lively faith
5 St Lawrence Justinian, BC	Our parish school
6 Of Our Lady	Marian devotion
7 PENTECOST XVII	Our Parish Family
8 NATIVITY BVM	Devotion to Our Lady
9 St Peter Claver, C	The Church in Africa
10 St Nicholas of Tolentino, C	The sick
11 Feria	Victims of terror
12 Most Holy Name of Mary	The serenity of Our Lady
13 Of Our Lady	The Sisters of St Mary
14 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	Our Parish Family
15 SEVEN SORROWS BVM	The Society of the Holy Cross
16 St Cyprian, BM	Mount Calvary Church
17 Stigmata of St Francis (Ember Day)	The Joseph Richey House
18 St Joseph of Cupertino, C	Joy in God's presence
19 St Januarius, BM (Ember Day)	Priestly vocations
20 Vigil of St Matthew (Ember Day)	Apostolic zeal
21 ST MATTHEW, ApEvM	Our Parish Family
22 St Thomas of Villanova, BC	Christian Education
23 St Linus, PM	The Church in Italy
24 Our Lady of Ransom	The Church in the Middle East
25 Feria	Personal holiness
26 Martyrs of North America	Faith in our own lives
27 SS Cosmas and Damian, MM	The Church in Rome
28 PENTECOST XX	Our Parish Family
29 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS	Churches dedicated to St Michael
30 St Jerome, CD	Christian Scholars

## The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary September 8

When the Church commemorates the birthday of a saint, what is almost invariably meant is the day of his death, which is the day of his birth into the world invisible. To this rule the Calendar contains three exceptions, the Nativity of S. John the Baptist, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Nativity of our Blessed Lord. All these commemorate the natural birth.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was not commemorated in the Church as early as the other two, for S. Augustine, preaching on the Nativity of S. John the Baptist, says that the Church observed only two nativities, that of S. John the Baptist and that of Christ. But what was unknown to S. Augustine came into devotional observance certainly not later than that century seven. In the eleventh century S. Peter Damian, preaching on the festival, describes it as a day most rightly kept by the universal Church.

To the event commemorated no allusion is found in Holy Scripture. "Perhaps," says Benedict XIV, "some will wonder that we say nothing on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. But since the Holy Scripture maintains unbroken silence concerning it, we think it wisest to be silent ourselves." More especially did Pope Benedict believe this wise, since writers had elaborated narratives drawn from legendary sources. Nothing whatever is known of the Virgin's early life. Even the names of her parents are not absolutely certain, although it is generally believed that she was the daughter of S. Joachim and S. Anne.

But the fact of her nativity was commemorated in the Church as the necessary antecedent to the Incarnation. In the birth of the Blessed Virgin the Divine Power and Wisdom and Love had created her whom he predestined to the highest honour ever granted to a creature, that of becoming the mother of His Everlasting Son. Mediaeval writers delighted to take the words "Wisdom hath builded her house" [Proverbs 9:1] and apply them to the Divine Wisdom creating the mother of our Lord. The Nativity of Mary prepared the way for the Incarnation. The house must be builded before the King could come. S. Peter Damian, for example, does not hesitate to say, "As it was impossible for the human race to be redeemed unless the Son of God was born of a Virgin, so it was necessary for the Virgin to be born of whom the Word of God should be Incarnate."

The Rev'd W. J. Sparrow Simpson  
*The Minor Festivals of the Anglican Calendar*

## The Altar

[Of primary importance in any church] is the Altar. It should be given the greatest honour and prominence. All else is subservient to it. In fact, in principle, the Church exists for the Altar and is built to enshrine it, as the Centre of Worship. For the Altar is the earthly Throne of God. It is absolutely necessary to the Worship of God, for it is at once the place of Sacrifice and the Tabernacle of the Blessed Sacrament. "We have an Altar" says Saint Paul, and by these words he shows clearly the primary position which the Altar occupies in the divinely given scheme of worship. Nothing can be worse in Art or Architecture than a rich and beautiful Church and a poor and bare Altar. It is putting honour, beauty and dignity in the wrong place. No matter what the Church may possess or lack, the Altar should be made the centre of all, and everything should be done to make it fit to symbolize Calvary, to speak of Heaven and to be the place for the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Altar is the place of sacrifice. There is offered the memorial of Our Lord's Death and Passion on the Cross. In holy mystery Calvary is set forth. The Priest is the representative of Christ. Our Lord works through him, offering, consecrating, giving. At a late Mass the music rises up in honour and praise and there is a fulfillment of the prophecy: "in every place Incense shall be offered unto My Name and a pure offering." The Church has become as it were the Court of Heaven. The life hereafter has begun on earth. And perhaps there is no more beautiful sight than that at the Elevation of the Host, with the Altar and Sanctuary, the gleaming Candles and the fragrant Incense, the vested Clergy and the attendant Acolytes; as all present are in adoring worship. So once thought an artist, who, directed to paint a scene depicting perfect peace, instead of quiet mountain top, or primeval forest or smiling sea, set forth the Mass at this point.

To the Catholic, Holy Communion is no mere good thing to do or religious rite to be received. He comes to receive his Lord, to be filled with ineffable joy as Christ comes to give Himself, body, soul and divinity, this joy ever increasing as through continually receiving the Blessed Sacrament the soul grows in grace and spiritual discernment.

The Rev'd Archibald Campbell Knowles

*Reminiscences of a Parish Priest*

Father Knowles was long-time Rector of St Albans Church, Olney, Philadelphia

## **Festival of Faith**

*The Hope and Future of Orthodoxy in the Anglican Communion*

### **Keynote speakers:**

The Most Reverend Drexel Wellington Gomez, Primate of the West Indies  
The Right Reverend Keith Ackerman, SSC, Bishop of Quincy

Saturday, September 13, 2008  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Saint Luke's Church**  
**4002 53<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Bladensburg, MD 20710**

For more information visit:  
[http://www.stlukesparish-bladensburg.org/parish\\_002.htm](http://www.stlukesparish-bladensburg.org/parish_002.htm)

### **Daily Mass Schedule**

Sunday - 7:45 a.m. Matins and 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 - 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Saturday - 12:00 Noon Low Mass

**Grace and Saint Peter's Church**  
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