

REGENT OF THE SUN



“O Come Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTOR

The Book of Genesis tells us was what began in the chaos and emptiness of the first moments of time, the Christmas Gospel tells us was completed in the peace and stillness of a Bethlehem night.

Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC

During the first three weeks of Advent we have heard the words of the prophet Isaiah. In week one Isaiah's word appeared harsh and stern. Israel, the people of the Covenant, became a people enslaved by the Babylonians. They were suffering, not from God's revenge for their disobedience, but resulting from choosing to walk a path apart from God. Israel believed the same lie as Adam, "I know a better way than God's way."

In the second week of Advent we heard two voices. The first voice was

again from Isaiah. However, this time the prophet's voice moved from judgement to assurance; the assurance that God had not abandoned Israel or forsaken his Covenant he had made with Abraham. God spoke through Isaiah that their subjugation would soon come to an end. The second voice we heard was that of John the Baptist prophesying that the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy was at hand, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

See, **Rector**, cond. page 2

DEC. 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, Dec. 24
5:00pm Mass
10:00pm Mass

DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, 10:00am Mass **ONLY**
NO 8 and 9:30am Masses

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

HOLY INNOCENTS
Wednesday, December 28
9:30am Mass

THE EPIPHANY
Friday, Jan. 6
9:30am Mass

HOLY NAME
Sunday, Jan. 1
8:00 & 9:30am Mass

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
Sunday, Jan. 8
8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass

A NIGHT OF CHORAL MUSIC



On December 3rd, the New Jersey Chamber Singers brilliantly performed the “Magnificat”. The evening began with *Domine ad adjumvandum me festina* from Monteverdi’s [1567-1643] *Vesper*. Seven various compositions of the *Magnificat* composed by such muscians as J.S. Bach [1685-1750] and David Hogan [1949-1996] were performed in the first segment of the concert.

The second half of the concert was especially moving. The Church was illuminated with the soft glow of candle light. In this glow, the choir sang *Beata*

viscera and *Lo, How A Rose* by Praetorius [1571-1621]. Also performed at this time was, *A Virgin Unspotted* by William Billings [1746-1800], *O Nata Lux* by Lauridse , and *Silent Night*. The concert concluded with Jeremiah Ingalls [1764-1838], *Glory to God on High*. It was wonderful to see so many from the general public in attendance. It was a great night of magnificent choral music.

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In Advent IV, we hear God’s commission to David that he is to build the Tabernacle which is to contain the “presence of God” (the Shekinah Glory). . This is only to be a temporary Tabernacle. The true tabernacle through which the presence of God would, through the Incarnation, enter the world would be a human tabernacle - the the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Advent message is clear. Despite what befalls us in our lives, we must never let it destroy that fundamental joy, that fundamental gratitude for life that so clearly the marks the life of the Christian.

The prophecies we heard in Advent have been fulfilled by the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ which we celebrate during Christmas. God’s people must never simply celebrate the Incarnation; we must *be* the Incarnation. We must be, each of us, Christ in the flesh, for every other human being. Christmas is never simply a feast. It is a way of life, a way of life to which we have been called to in baptism.

FACES AND VOICES IN ADVENT



ISAIAH



JOHN THE BAPTIST



KING DAVID



MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Annual Parish Meeting

January 30, 2012

Please mark your calendars for the annual parish meeting on January 30, 2012. We will begin with Mass at 6:00pm and the meeting will follow the Mass at 7:00pm. During the meeting we will elect new members to the vestry, three delegates to Diocesan Convention, and three alternates to Convention. The six elected delegates (three to diocesan convention and three as alternates) will all serve as delegates to the Monmouth Convocation. The 228th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey will take place on March 2-3, 2012 at the Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Any parishioner who is active in his or her Mass attendance and is interested in being considered a candidate for any of the positions should contact the Rector.

At the Annual parish meeting, I will present my Rector's Report which can be read in the Parish Journal. In addition to the other reports that will be given, I generally provide a 10 minute video of the events which took place in the life of the parish over the last calendar year. This seems to be very popular among those who attend. We will also spend some time visioning for the future. For those who cannot attend, copies of the Parish Journal will be made available through the parish office. This will be my seventh annual parish meeting as your Rector, all of which have been very pleasant.

Report on the Special Parish Meeting Held Sunday, November 13

In October, the Rector received a letter from the Bishop announcing his retirement in November 2013. In accordance with Canon 9 ("Episcopal Elections"), Section 2 the next step in the process leading to the election of a new bishop is to form an

Episcopal Election Committee. In order to proceed the bishop designated Sunday, November 13 for a Special Meeting to be held in every parish throughout the diocese. The purpose for these special parish meetings was for each parish to elect six lay delegates to a special meeting of the Convocation.

On November 13, in accordance with our bishop's directives, the following parishioners were elected as delegates to the Special Convocation. They are, Karen Cavagnaro, Eric Clauburg, Pamela Gallamore, David Kiely, Lynn Schindel, and Jeff Thorpe. St. Uriel's had the honor and privilege to host this special convocation meeting which was held on Sunday, December 11.

Pledging Results to Date

St. Uriel's presently has approximately 180 families. Although it is encouraging that we have seen an increase in the average per family giving, still less than half of our families pledge. Imagine what could happen if all our families pledged. Your pledges and offerings ensures our ability to continue with our many parish ministries, including our outreach programs, parish projects, and Christian education programs. Of course it is essential for church maintenance and upkeep as well.

Pray about making your pledge a regular part of your overall budget planning and not something decided at the last minute. Make a plan now for regular, predictable, weekly support.

If you have misplaced your pledge card, there are extra cards in the back of the church and in the parish office. Pledging can be done in one of three ways.

- The best way is to come to Mass and put your pledge card in the offertory plate.
- Another option is to mail your pledge card into the parish office.

- You may now make your 2012 pledge commitment online by going to: <http://urielsg.org/Static-donate.html>
- You may call the parish office and tell Adrienne what you would like to pledge for the mission of St. Uriel's in 2012.

Parishioners' pledges are kept confidential. Adrienne Decker records them on her computer. No one on staff is privy to who pledges or the amount pledged. As part of your discipleship, you may also want to encourage other parishioners to become deeply involved in the work of the parish. If you know of someone who is not attending a Church community, invite him or her to Mass.

Some Pledging Statistics

59 Pledge cards turned in.
\$109,215.00 Pledged totals to date
\$1,851. Average pledge per parishioner

As of today, there are 16 families that pledged last year but have not yet renewed their pledges for 2012. If these pledges were renewed, we will be ahead of last year.

Fear not, it is never too late to sign a pledge card. We realize in these tough economic times, that if anyone falls on difficult financial hardships, pledge commitments can be changed to reflect your individual situation.

First Communion Classes

There is a signup list in the hallway leading into Hulbert Hall for those children who are interested in receiving their First Communion at Easter. The course will begin sometime in late January. Children must be 7 years old or older. A child who will be turning 7 before Easter is eligible.

Harvest Dinner

This year, the Holiday Bazaar was replaced with a Harvest Gathering dinner, the brain child of Gary and Pamela Gallamore. Many of us felt the need to have some time together as a faith filled parish family. We have not had a parish meal since the summer outdoor Mass at Camp Zehnder.

The dinner commenced right after the 9:30am Mass [which on this day was scheduled for 10:am] The menu consisted of Fried Turkey, sweet potato casserole, roasted veggies, Waldorf salad, cranberry chutney with apple or pumpkin pie. Mulled cider with a "kick", cranberry punch, coffee and tea were available to complete the menu.

The dinner was a great success and well received by all in attendance (over 100 served!). In addition, it was encouraging to have so many people involved in the preparation, serving and cleanup for the dinner. The

women of the parish and the men from the Brotherhood of St. Andrew were of invaluable help.

All who attended enjoyed the live entertainment provided by Marjory Hopper, Joe Mahon and Gloria Kurtz. Marjory and Joe sang several selected pieces from the works of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Added to all the festivities were several table filled with baked goods and various Christmas items which were obtained through silent "donations".

On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank all those men and women who helped in making this day such a great success. However, none of this would have been possible without the vision and leadership of Gary and Pamela Gallamore! At the end of the day, we even made a profit of \$508.56.

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1*



FRIED TURKEY



Pictured top to bottom

Top: Chefs Dave Kiely and Gary Gallamore

Middle: Majory Hopper and Joe Mahon singing to the songs of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Bottom: Pamela Gallamore, Janet Kiely, Ginger Braender, Elsy Eckler

LITURGICAL CORNER



“For the Christian, water as the matter of Baptism is life.”

Tertullian (b. 160)

Holy Water and the use of Holy Water Stoups

The ritual use of this precious substance, water is ancient and rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures. When the Israelites entered the Temple, they underwent purification by immersion in a mikvah [a small pool]. This ritual purification by water prefigured Christian Baptism. We recall our Baptism whenever we bless ourselves (making the sign of the cross) using holy water upon entering and leaving the Church.

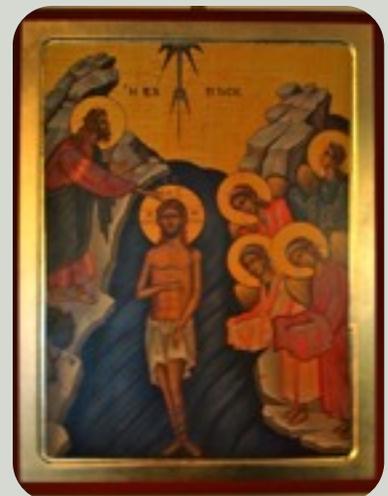
Near the entrance of the Church are two holy water stoups attached to the wall. Anglican's who choose to adhere to this tradition dip the fingers of the right hand into the water and cross themselves while mentally contemplating the words, *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* They recall the grace received at Baptism and mentally express their gratitude to God. Many Episcopalians also repeat this process upon leaving the church.

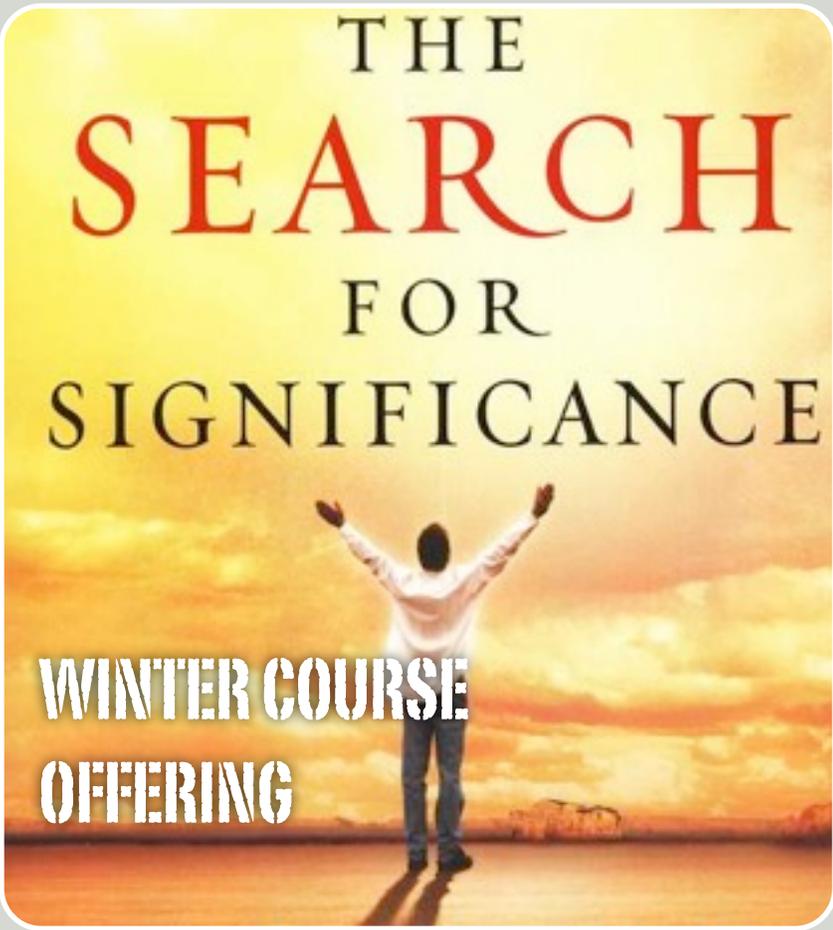
Holy water is also used by the priest to asperges the people. The priest does this 4 times a year [Easter Vigil, Pentecost, All Saints Day, and the Baptism of our Lord] during the renewal of the Baptismal Covenant. He uses a pail like vessel called an “aspersory” to hold the holy water, and into this he dips a utensil called an *aspergillum*. The aspergillum has holes in it to catch and release droplets of the water when the priest asperges the congregation. This blessing of the congregation at Mass is called “Aspérages” and the accompanying, chanted words come from Psalm 50:

Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop and I shall be cleansed; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall become whiter than snow. Have mercy on me, O God, according Thy great mercy.

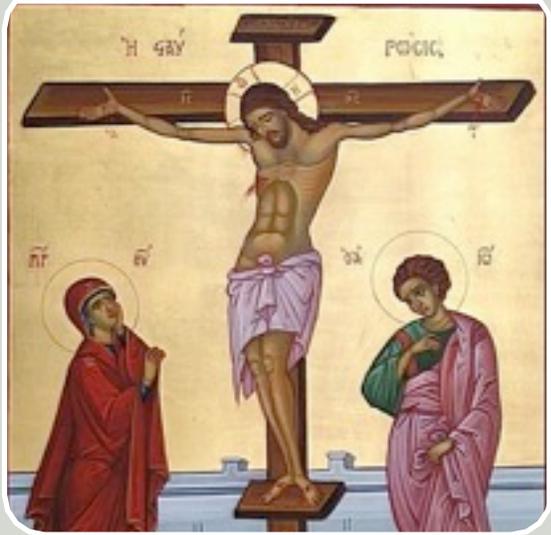
Others times when the priest may use Holy Water is during the Penitential Rite at the beginning of the Mass. This is especially suitable during Lent. In the Mass of Christian burial, holy water is also used by the Priest to asperge the casket at the entrance of the church.

The Baptism of Christ.





- Some Chapter Topics**
- The Light Comes On
 - The Origin of the Search
 - The Performance Trap: "I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself"
 - The Blame Game: "Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished"
 - Shame: "I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless"
 - Each section ends with the chapter, "God's Answer"



"True significance is found only in Christ"

While I was the Rector of St. Anne's in Crystal River, Florida, Cynthia and I along with Dr. Lieb taught the course, "Search for Significance". I realize it sounds like a soap opera. However, it is an excellent course designed to deepen our understanding of our identity in Christ and in the world. This course made a great impact upon people's lives.

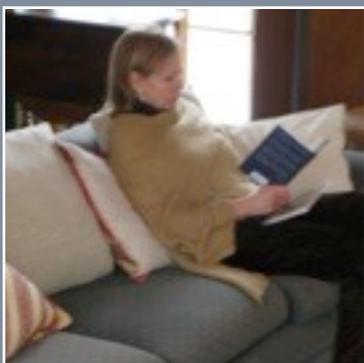
This best-selling book is written by Dr. Robert McGee, a Christian psychologist. It has helped millions of readers learn how to be free to enjoy Christ's love while no longer basing their self-worth on *their accomplishments or the opinions of others*. In fact,

A 10 Part Study beginning in February 6

Billy Graham said that it was a book that should be read by every Christian. This course will help the participants to gain new skills for getting off the performance treadmill and to discover how four false beliefs have negatively impacted our lives. The course will also assist the participants to learn how to overcome obstacles that prevent us from experiencing the truth that our self-worth is found only in the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Christ. True significance is found only in Christ. Along with discussion, this 10 part series will utilize a teaching on DVD.

	DATE	PLACE & TIME	MATERIALS	COST
	Starting February 6 - April 16 [No class during the week in Holy Week]	7:00pm St. Uriels', Hulbert Hall	Participants will receive a Textbook which will include the workbook.	\$20.00 text book. \$15.00 Journal Scholarships are available

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"



'Alas, my dear brethren, how greatly we should fear, lest we do not recognize our temptations! And we shall never recognize them if we do not ask God to allow us to do so.'

St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney, the Cure of Ars

Parish Retreat: Feb 17-19, 2012

Our parish retreat pre-Lent retreat has become very popular. The purpose of the retreat is to refresh and revitalize the participants, giving them greater opportunity for time spent in prayer and contemplation. The retreat rekindles and deepens one's relationship with God. One may take this opportunity to increase in the ability to clearly hear God's call and to seek God's healing grace, thereby attaining a degree of spiritual renewal. The purpose of a spiritual retreat is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions of the world to allow relaxation and an inner change to occur. This ongoing conversion of heart is critical to deepening faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

People will often say, "I do not have time to go on retreat." Or, "I don't need such a thing." However, the gospels tell us that Jesus Himself needed to go on retreat. Mark [1:35-37] records for us, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for Him, and when they found Him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'" [Mark 1: 35-37] Jesus did not go off to spend time with God only when there were no other pressing matters. On the contrary, He spent quiet time with God *because* there were pressing matters to attend to. Luke records, "In those days he departed

to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12).

Our retreat this year is scheduled for February 17-19, 2012. In past years, our attendance has been very good averaging about 17 to 18 participants. This year, we must guarantee the Convent at least 15 participants. Therefore, we will need to have at least 15 people signed up for retreat by January 15. We can take a maximum of 26 participants.

Sign-up lists are in the back of the Church and in the hallway leading into Hulbert Hall. Registration can also be made through the parish office. The cost is \$150.00.

What a wonderful opportunity... no computers, no television bombarding us with noise. Your meals are prepared for you and there are no dishes to wash. Apart from the daily Mass, Daily Offices, three meditations; you will have the opportunity to take a nice walk on the convent grounds, read and/or catch up on some much need sleep.