



The Shepherd's Staff

***Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States***

January 2020

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A New Year and a New Archbishop

We are saddened to announce the retirement of the Most Reverend Frederick G Morrison who has stepped down as of January 1st. Bishop Morrison was elected the third archbishop of the Anglican Province of Christ the King in July of 2015 and led the province until his retirement. Archbishop Morrison was ordained a priest in England in 1962, served in various English parishes and was a Royal Air Force chaplain. At the request of Archbishop Morse, then Father Morrison came to the United States in May of 1985 and was sent to Tulsa where he built All Saints' Church which was consecrated in 1988. Having served as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of the Southwestern States, he was elected bishop of that diocese in May of 2002.



Archbishop Morrison in 2016 at Saint Peter's Oakland



On December 6th, the Right Reverend John E Upham was elected by the College of Bishops to succeed Archbishop Morrison. Archbishop Upham grew up in Raleigh and was confirmed by the late James P Clark of the Diocese of the Southern States. Bishop Upham holds a Bachelor degree in Music Education and Performance (Voice and Organ) and a Master of Education (Counseling) from Campbell University, an M.Div. and a Master of Theology from Duke University Divinity School, a Doctor of Theology from St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary and a Doctor of Canon Law degree from St. Andrew's. Archbishop Upham was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Clark on August 21st, 1999 and in December 2001, he was called to be Rector at St. George's Anglican Church in Raleigh. Father Upham retired from teaching in 2004 and was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of the Atlantic States on August 15th, 2012 and installed as Bishop Ordinary in 2016 by Archbishop Morrison.

More Episcopal News

There will be two episcopal elections at our Diocesan Synod this year. At their December 30th meeting, the Council of Bishops named Bishop Peter F Hansen as Episcopal Visitor to the Diocese of the Southwestern States and I, as Bishop Ordinary, am calling for his election as coadjutor bishop of our diocese. That means he will remain rector of his parish but will oversee (under the guidance of the Council of Bishops) the parishes in the Southwestern States; and have right of succession in our diocese. Second, with the retirement of Archbishop Morrison and the increased workload on Bishop Hansen, the Council of Bishops nominated the Reverend Robert F Ponec, Vicar of Saint John the Baptist Anglican Church in Omaha, to be Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of the Western States. Suffragan Bishop Blair Schultz of the Atlantic States was elected secretary to the council, and I remain Bishop Ordinary of our diocese and Provost of Saint Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. The Archbishop also has appointed Father Matthew Weber of St. Ann's Palo Alto as the new editor for the Ordo Kalendar.

Our 2020 Synod – A Question

As previously announced, our 29th Synod of the Diocese of the Western States is scheduled for May 6th to 9th and will be hosted by Saint Augustine of Canterbury parish in Chico. I have been asked about retreats for clergy and laity. ***So, I have a question. Would there be any interest in a quiet day on Tuesday, May 5th the day before our Synod gets under way?*** Please let me know ASAP. With the election of a Coadjutor and Suffragan, I think it might be a good time for us to pause, reflect and pray for God's grace.

Seminary News

Bishop Hansen will be offering a course in the History of the Church. It will be a two-semester course and will begin on January 7th, 2020 (Tuesdays) at 4 p.m. Required reading will be assigned soon. I be offering two classes: Latin VI (my Latin III class caught up over the Christmas break) and Biblical Greek. Latin VI will be on at Mondays; Latin VI, 10:00 a.m., beginning January 20th and Greek at 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning January 9th. Please let me know your thoughts and any scheduling complications.

I would like to personally remind all clergy that “continuing education” is of supreme importance. We too easily forget what we have learned. We all need to learn what (perhaps) we didn't learn. We all need to sharpen our skills, especially our theological skills.

We are continuing to perfect the Zoom Platform. It costs the student nothing; all the student need do is make sure the instructor has a current email address and the student will receive an email invitation to join each class. The only equipment needed is a lap top computer with a camera. There is also a way to listen in by cell phone which many students have done. This system was also successfully used last summer for students and clergy who could not attend the morning lectures at St. Joseph's.

The cost is \$250.00 for credit and \$75.00 for audit per course. Please address any requests for tuition relief to the Provost at bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.

When you sign up for your course(s), please send your information to the following:

(1) The Provost (Bishop Ashman): bishopashman@gmail.com or provostsjact@gmail.com.

(2) The Vice Provost and Registrar (Canon Ben Jones): fr.benjones@gmail.com

Send your check to St. George's Anglican Church, 1210 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

When you sign up be sure to include your name, address, email address; your parish, your sponsoring or parish priest, and the courses you have completed online or at Saint Joseph's Seminary and the dates completed. If you are intending to pursue Holy Orders, please complete the application for postulancy found on the APCK Website: www.anglicanpck.org

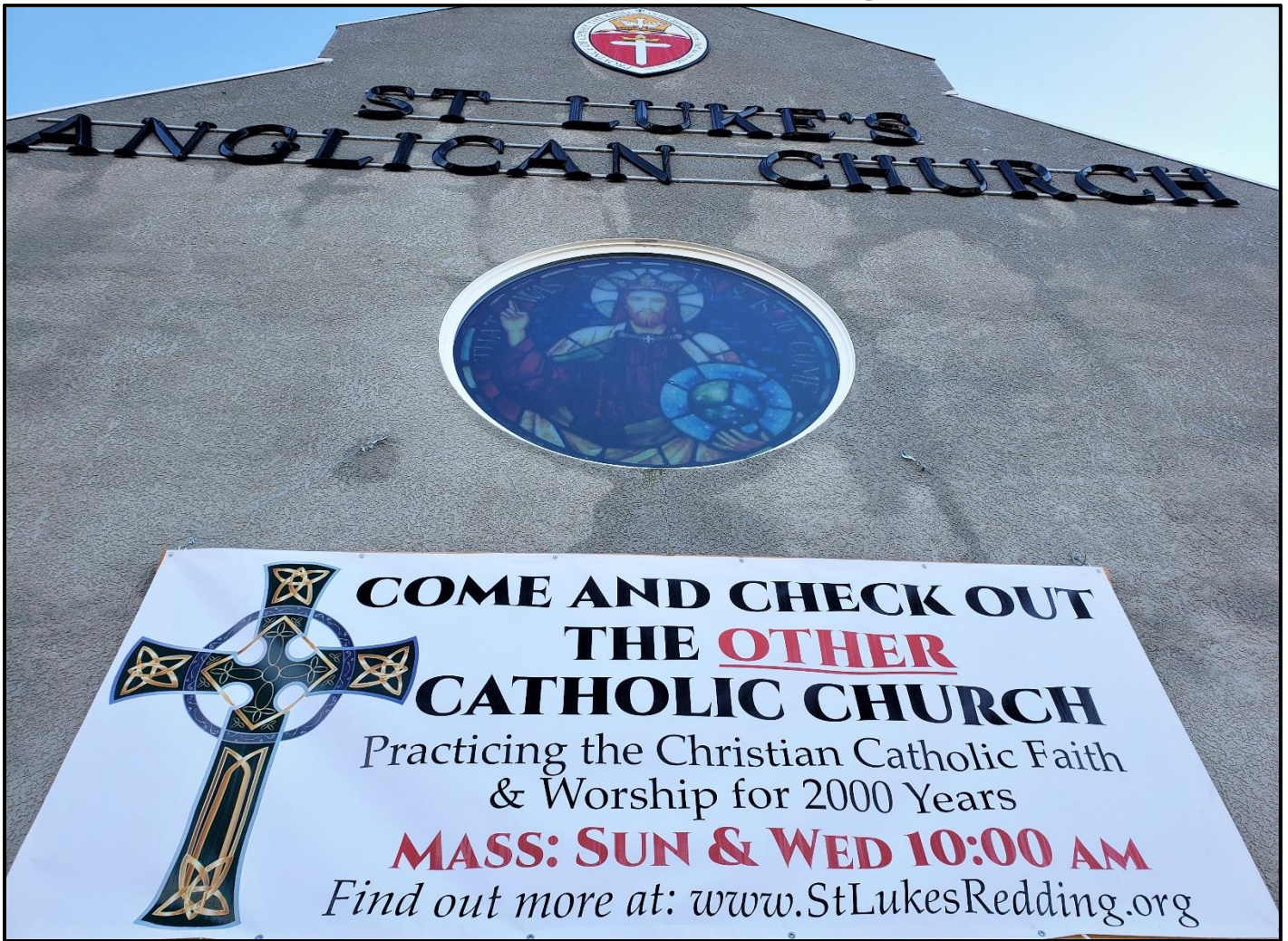
Advent and Christmas Pictures around the Diocese

Lessons and Carols, Saint Nicholas Party and Greening the Church St. Mark's Portland OR





**Saint Luke's Redding CA
Now This is Advertising!**



Way to Go Deacon Lawrence!

Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve



Church of Our Saviour Santa Barbara CA
Lessons and Carols



Church of the Holy Trinity Sacramento CA



Thank You Father Shaddix

Annual Meeting at Saint Bartholomew's Woodinville WA

(taken by the Bishop on his travels)



Chaplain McGrath blesses Christmas Trees

Father Daniel McGrath (Navy Chaplain) sent a few photos of a ceremony he did with the Coast Guard, in which he prayed for God's blessing of the Christmas trees & a Memorial Wreath at Polk Bros Park/Navy Pier in downtown Chicago. In the background is the Coast Guard Cutter MACKINAW and members of the US Coast Guard Academy Glee Club, who came to sing Christmas carols. Each year the Coast Guard Cutter MACKINAW delivers over a thousand Christmas trees to needy Chicago families, offloaded by volunteers, and that's what this ceremony was all about. The Wreath is dedicated to commemorate all those lost at sea or on the Great Lakes, and is laid in the water with a helicopter flyover. It is a very meaningful event. Bless you and your ministry, Father McGrath. Father McGrath is a former Rector of Saint Bartholomew's WA



Church of Our Saviour Los Angeles CA

Lessons and Carols



**Saint Peter's Oakland CA
Christmas Pageant**



Saint Patrick's Westcliffe CO



Thank you Deacon Ruffino

Saint Jude's Grants Pass OR



ACW Notes

By ACW President Gillian Golden (standing next to Father La Barbera)

I hope you all had a blessed and joyous Christmas and may 2020 be a bounteous and productive year!

We have been overwhelmed with the response to the 'Ultimate Fundraiser' Thank you all so much for your very generous response. To date we have raised almost \$5,000, and the money is still coming in! If you haven't donated yet, it is not too late. There is no ending date for this fundraiser.

Now that we are entering a new calendar year, it is time for annual ACW dues of \$50 per parish, payable by January 31st. Ash Wednesday will be on February 26th, so we need to think about ordering Lenten Mite Boxes. I hope all churches will join this program, organized by Provincial ACW, to help with student support at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary.



A Sermon for the Feast of Saint John the Evangelist

A few years ago, I was talking to Bishop Upham of the Atlantic States and the subject of apostolic succession came up. I wondered about our apostolic lineage and the bishop sent me a document that was based on the records kept in the office of Bishop Albert Chambers, who was chief consecrator of the then Father Morse and three other priests at the Denver consecrations of 1978. It was an astonishing document. As I read backwards, I saw that our APCK lineage was traced to such well-known bishops as Samuel Seabury (the first American Bishop), William Sancroft (who could not swear loyalty to William and Mary), Thomas Cranmer (father of the Book of Common Prayer), Thomas Becket, St. Augustine of Canterbury, the early Church Fathers Irenaeus of Lyons and St. Polycarp of Smyrna who was consecrated by St. John the Apostle who was consecrated by our Blessed Lord.

That makes all of us Anglicans descendants of Saint John the Apostle. John is the Apostle most admired by Christians. He was the beloved disciple and has been called the Apostle of Love and a paragon of angelic virtue. He was the son of Zebedee and the brother of Andrew. According to tradition, his mother was Salome, the sister of Mary, Jesus' mother. John was part of Jesus' inner circle. He was the only Apostle who was present at the crucifixion where Jesus told him to take his aunt, the Blessed Virgin, as his own mother. It has been pointed out that he was closest to the Lord and understood his teachings the best. Yet it is often forgotten that Jesus called John the Son of Thunder because he could rise up in anger to defend the Church against heresy.

This not-so-gentle side of John can be seen in his first epistle when he says: *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning* (1 St. Jn. 3:8). These words appear very unforgiving but in the Greek, the present tense is used which means that John is saying that the person who habitually sins is of the devil. Harsh words but they leave room for repentance. Then in the next chapter, John says: *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?* (1 St. Jn. 4:20) John indeed can thunder loudly but we also hear gentler words of his in every Eucharist: *If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins* (1 St. Jn. ii. 1, 2). So the obvious conclusion is that John makes it clear that being a half-hearted or insincere Christian is not enough to merit salvation.

Tradition and the Church Fathers tell us much about the work of Saint John's later years. In the sixties under the Emperor Nero, Tertullian and Saint Jerome tell us that John was imprisoned, tortured and almost martyred at Rome, where he was thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but emerged unscathed. John later escaped and made his way to Ephesus and cared for the churches of Asia Minor for the rest of his life. A generation later, the emperor Domitian banished John to the island of Patmos but in the year ninety-six, the emperor Nerva allowed John to return to Ephesus where he died some years later a very old man.

John's greatest contributions, however, were by his own pen and, since he lived long enough to witness early heresies emerge, his gospel corrected those heresies and explained details of Jesus' theology much more thoroughly than the Synoptic Gospels. (*In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God; and the Word was God.*) Thus, he was called Saint John the Divine which is seventeenth century English for theologian. His three epistles were written about the same time and during his exile on the island of Patmos, he was caught up in an ecstatic vision which was the basis for his Book of Revelation.

There is a wonderful story told about Saint John that dates to antiquity and conveys to us the essence of just who Saint John was. When Saint John was a very old man and too weak to celebrate the liturgy, he would be carried to the front of the church for the sermon; and every Sunday would say: *Little children, love ye one another.* Some thought the old man was losing it and challenged him but he replied: *It is the Lord's command, and if only that is done, it would be enough.*

Church of Our Saviour Los Angeles

Christmas Eve



Some Reminders for the New Year

- † Remember, it does not matter how big or small our parish is. What counts is how many people we send to our Blessed Saviour. I know we sometimes feel marginalized and fighting an unwinnable fight (that kind of despair is the devil's most powerful weapon!) but, if we are faithful, if we laugh at the devil and his minions, we cannot lose because we will be given the Vision of God. Be happy; be a happy church family in Christ. These words may not "grow" a parish but visitors, if they encounter a happy church family in your church, we be given a glimpse of the Vision of God. The taddled poem below says it best:

***Why can't we overlook others' mistakes?
We've all surely been there before.
Love and forgiveness are all that it takes,
to boot Satan out of the door.***

- † Clergy, one way we can fend off this "devil's disease" (also known as clerical depression over things we cannot control) is to take "continuing education" classes through the Seminary Zoom system. It's not just the knowledge (although that in itself is a comfort), it's a venue to work with our brothers and feel less isolated. Another way is to take joy in our pastoral work, especially to the sick and the shut-ins. Pray for our Archbishop John and our Suffragan Bishop Peter at every celebration of the Holy Communion.
- † Now don't laugh! I have some movie recommendations which I think are perfect supplements not just for the season but also for Bible Study and Church School. Call me a romantic but I don't apologize for recommending good movies which reflect Christian theology or teach the Faith. The first is *The Miracle of the Bells*, a 1948 black and white love story, starring Fred MacMurray, Alida Valli and Frank Sinatra. Woven into this modern parable is an exploration of our relationship with God in the deep, enduring faith of a young actress who portrays Joan of Arc, her manager and a young priest. I highly recommend this classic. A second place runner-up is the 1953 *The Gift* with Charles Boyer; and third place is the 1956 *The Blessed Midnight* with Maureen O'Sullivan. I have more recommendations for these oldies but goodies that make us feel our fight as Christians is worth fighting. Just ask.
- † Support your Anglican Church Women. If you are the only woman in your parish (or if there are just a few of you), help the priest keep your diocesan and provincial dues up to date. I know we are all very busy, but the ACW does so much for our church camps and our seminarians. You might work on getting auction items for the ACW auction at Synod. And vestries/bishop's committees, you can help too. I am proud of my own parish vestry which just writes the checks and sends them off. And gentlemen, think about what you might bring to Synod for the Men's Auction.
- † On Sunday last (Christmas I), I preached on entitlement (code for you owe me!) and the slavery which inevitably follows, as opposed to the freedom of joyfully serving God as his sons and daughters. And I asked the question I now ask my readers. Which will we choose in the course of our daily lives: generosity or selfishness; pride or humility; saying we are sorry for our sins or denying that we sin; taking our trials and tribulations patiently or blaming God and/or our neighbors; being a bright ray of sunshine and joy or a dark cloud of gloom; being a volunteer or letting someone else carry the load. Will we be peacemakers, love our enemies, pray for those that use us badly; and struggle to do for our neighbor as we would have do to us? And so, when we live out those virtues for others to witness, with no expectation of reward, we preach Christ and we shall receive our inheritance in which we will never taste the bitter slavery of entitlement.
- † A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who sent pictures and news for this edition of The Shepherd's Staff. Please keep them coming. And dear clergy, I would love to print some of your sermons.