



FAITHWAY – December 2017

The Church of the Holy Faith

welcomes all people into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and the Authority of Scripture.

We honor our Anglican heritage and praise God with Solemn liturgy, traditional Prayer Book worship, and music to exalt the spirit.

We strive to live as a community with compassion for one another and the world around us.

We worship together in peace to praise and thank God, to transcend division, and to celebrate the mystery of faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

This is the time of year that we usually experience most strongly the clash of secular and religious culture. The Church observes Advent, the period of four Sundays before December 25 set aside to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Advent means “coming.”) The rest of the culture seems to celebrate Christmas, “the Holidays,” or some sort of Winterval. I have already heard since Thanksgiving enough renditions of Christmas carols and holiday songs to last a lifetime, including a particularly schmaltzy radio-version of “Silent Night” at 9:00 am on “Black Friday,” the day after Thanksgiving when all the holiday sales start!

Every six years or so this clash is especially striking when the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24, Christmas Eve, as it does this year. When does the Church stop preparing and expecting the birth of our Lord and actually start celebrating it?

Now don’t get me wrong. I like all the preparations for Christmas and the singing of all the favorite Christmas carols as much as the next person. And my family and I will decorate the house and put up our Christmas tree

sometime before December 25. But I think there is value to expectation and not always receiving immediate gratification. And I think there are a lot of others out there like me. I have heard some of you lament how commercial December has become, and how you would like more time for peace, reflection, and yourselves during the holiday season.



“Worship is at the heart of what we do as Christians.”

The Church gives us that space to buck the trend and be counter-cultural. During Advent, Holy Faith will be decked in blue, the color of preparation and expectancy. Advent is not as penitential as Lent, however, so we will have greens on the altar and we will still say “Alleluia!” We will sing Advent hymns, not Christmas carols.

Come the morning of December 24, Holy Faith will observe the fourth Sunday of Advent with a change in schedule by offering only one service at 10:00 am of a Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, a traditional service of readings and music that originated at Kings College of Cambridge University that tells the Advent story. Some may think it folly to offer any service on Sunday morning December 24 because attendance will be light. That’s not the point (and I hope

some of you will agree by turning out that morning)! Worship is at the heart of what we do as Christians. If the Church doesn't keep the fourth Sunday of Advent, who will?

Later in the day on December 24, Holy Faith will shift gears and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with festive Christmas Eve Eucharist's at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:30 pm (preceded by a Christmas prelude at 10:00 pm). The 4:00 pm service is especially suitable for children of all ages (from 3 to 103!) as it includes the Christmas Pageant, and the ambience and mystery of the 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm services cannot be had anywhere else. Between the morning and afternoon, the Flower and Altar Guilds will be busy adding color to the greens and changing the sacred vestments to usher in our Christmas celebrations! Holy Faith will also offer a Choral Eucharist of the Nativity on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

On Sunday, December 31, Holy Faith will celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas with our usual Sunday morning schedule of worship at 7:30, 8:30, and 11:00 am. On Monday, January 1, Holy Faith will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name with a service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am. And then on Friday, January 5, we will cap the end of the Christmas season with a Solemn Evensong for the Eve of the Epiphany when we celebrate the arrival of the magi to worship the Christ Child. So, come be counter-cultural at Holy Faith and have a blessed Advent so that your Christmastide may be all the more joyous!

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Robin D. Dodge
Rector

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SISTER MARY DONALD CORCORAN SPEAKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY IN TODAY'S WORLD

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD



After extra chairs were set up at the back of Palen Hall for the growing audience, Father Robin greeted everyone at the Annual Scheffler Lecture on Friday, October 27, and introduced Sister Mary Donald Corcoran whose talk was entitled “Truly to Seek God.” He told the crowd that he had first met Sr. Donald at an Episcopal Retreat Center in California in 2005 and they have been friends ever since. He listed her many degrees and accomplishments, including the co-founding of the Transfiguration Monastery, of which she is the superior, in Windsor, NY.

Sister Donald won us over immediately by admitting, “I’ve fallen in love with Santa Fe in two days.” She explained that we would explore what monastic and Benedictine spirituality can teach us about living in today’s world, and how we can live the Mystery of Christ creatively.

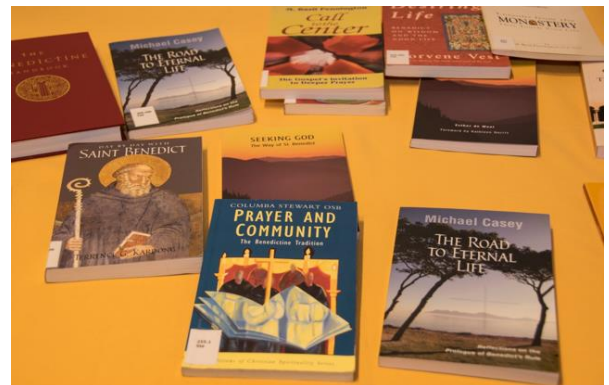
To begin with, we associate Benedictines with a basic wisdom of how to live life, a wisdom that is a blend of tradition and newness, of old and new, of young and old, of rules and creativity.

Benedict died in 540, and the sixth to the twelfth centuries are known as the Benedictine centuries. The rules of the Benedictine Way are so basic and fundamental, they had a stabilizing effect through history. They are so close to the source of Christian life that they are easily adapted across cultures and are present in a variety of religions. “There’s a wide, welcoming, human and humane dimension to the Rule of Benedict,” she told us. His teachings are beautiful and wise in their sense of humanity and hospitality. But it’s a hospitality of the heart, and this might require making ourselves strangers to the ways of this world as well as developing an interior distance from today’s toxic society. In fact, we need to work on our interior life, period, developing a listening heart.

The whole of Benedictine life is contemplative and mystical, with humility at the center. Sister Donald remarked, “Humility is the keystone of Benedict’s teaching but it’s a tremendous challenge for contemporary people. Humility? We’re very suspicious of it because how can it be psychologically healthy?” It can rob us of our personhood and talents, so “the notion of living out of reverence for the mystery of God” is difficult to accept. But true humility, she clarified, is openness of heart, reverence, and eager responsiveness to the word of God. We need to take on the mind of Christ, completing the work of the Workman; the key to doing this is the Holy Spirit. We need to turn our willfulness (ego) to willingness, and as we do so, our soul becomes a vessel for grace and we are filled with love and spirit. We develop a spiritual intensity that allows us to become who we are meant to become in Christ.

Simply put, just be faithful, and God will give his mercy. Keep going, learn a little bit more. Be obedient, be humble. As for finding time for prayer, Sister Donald told us that this may call for some creativity: If you can’t do everything, at least do something. Find what works for you; follow your nose.

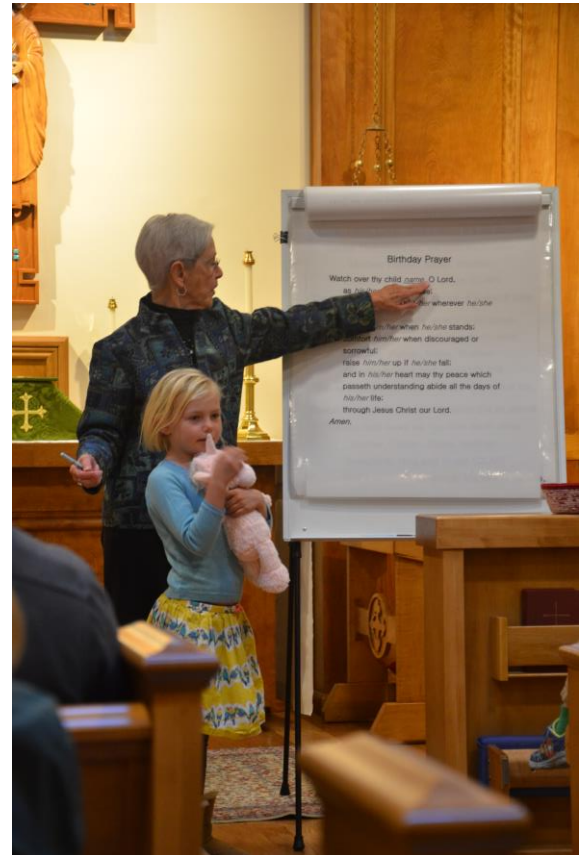
For those interested in reading more about Benedictine spirituality, there were several books on display at the front of the room, many of which are available to borrow from the Holy Faith library. The lecture was followed by a tasty reception courtesy of the Hospitality Committee. The following day, Holy Faith held “A Quiet Morning with Sister Donald” from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., consisting of Morning Prayer, a series of meditations, and Eucharist at noon. Sister Donald also preached at Holy Faith’s 7:30, 8:30 and 11:00 masses that Sunday.



THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – OCTOBER 2017
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON AND ALEXANDRA WARD



ANN MACVICAR SALUTED AND THANKED FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD, MARTY BUCHSBAUM AND PENNI CHAMBERS



65TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE
STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTY BUCHSBAUM

“Sing unto the LORD a New Song”

Your Church of the Holy Faith delegates, Senior Warden and clergy assembled on October 19, 2017 with approximately 250 similarly credentialed Episcopalians at All Saints Episcopal Church in El Paso to begin a three-day faith journey with a 6:00 pm Holy Eucharist. The convention theme was “Sing unto the LORD a New Song” and so it began with hymns of praise in Spanish and English and canticles in the Anglican tradition as led and played by our own Mark Edw. Childers. Part of the beauty of this service and ministry was his ability to bring disparate choirs into unity and harmony as he expanded their knowledge of our sung liturgies.

Bishop Michael Vono’s homily included a humble review of what he felt were his lasting legacies both within the Diocese as well as jointly with Navajoland Diocese, border ministries and the US Military Chaplains. In public session and private conversation, Bishop Vono charged delegates to be as loving and gracious and prayerfully considerate to his successor as we were to him in one unity in Christ our Lord.

The convention keynote speaker and leader of our plenary sessions was New Mexico’s own Dr. Megan McKenna, a respected theologian, philosopher, author and storyteller. Dr. McKenna’s presentations – always begun with a hymn – focused on the Gospels, not as text on a page but as entertaining and engaging stories well told, footnotes and all.

Fr. Robin was commissioned as the Canon for Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue at the Eucharist held on Thursday, October 19.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEVER ENDS...THE ADULT FORUM TO HAVE NEW FOCUS

STORY BY FR. JIM GORDON

Christian formation never ends.

Or shouldn't.

For that reason, we're looking to refocus Sunday's Adult Forums on presentations that will help all of us at Holy Faith to deepen our Christian knowledge and faith.

Referencing Holy Faith's mission statement, Rector Robin Dodge said, "Formation as disciples of Christ is one of the most important means of fulfilling our mission to invite everyone into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ."

With notable exceptions, the Adult Forums at Holy Faith have been a stepchild in recent months — in large part because putting together forums take time, something that neither Fr. Dodge nor myself have had in abundance as we've continued operating without a third full-time priest.

To give both the rector and associate rector some freedom to beef up the Adult Forums, both in terms of presentation and planning, Assisting Priest Fr. Richard Murphy will be joining the Sunday preaching rota in January.

"Having heard Fr. Murphy preach regularly at our Tuesday evening Taizé service, I never cease to be amazed by the clarity with which he expounds the Gospel," Fr. Dodge said. "He'll be a great addition to the Sunday preaching rota."

While focusing on God's word, the forums will also spend time on Christian art, beginning with Cissy Lewis' Advent series on religious poetry. At some point next year we'll take a look at famous altarpieces — both their beauty and the theology they represent.

Besides firming up the forum presentations, we're firming up their timing. Unless the length of the 8:30 service makes it impossible, forums will begin promptly at 9:55 and end at 10:30 — to allow 8:30 a.m. parishioners a chance to depart and allow 11 a.m. parishioners who don't attend the forum a chance to find a parking space.

Forums are also about fellowship, giving parishioners from different services a chance to get to know one another.

And speaking of fellowship, we hope to return Holy Faith to the tradition of first-Sunday breakfasts, at least for much of the year. Both the Free Spirits and the Men of Holy Faith group have agreed to provide breakfasts for a total of eight first Sundays in 2018. The first breakfast, Feb. 4, will be put on by the men.

If you have any questions about our forums, feel free to contact me at fr.jimgordon@gmail.com or call me at the church office, 982-4447.

SHELTER SERVICE AT PETE'S PLACE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHY GRONQUIST



ASHER AND SILAS BERNARD CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD



NEWCOMERS WELCOME PARTY –
NOVEMBER 2017
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DORA HORN



"SMILE" WITH AMAZON AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO HOLY FAITH MINISTRIES

STORY BY FR. JIM GORDON



For all the shopping needs you'll meet through Amazon this Christmas season — and beyond — you can satisfy them and help our church at the same time. Holy Faith is now part of the the Amazon Smile program, through which recognized charitable organizations receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible purchases.

"Holy Faith is hardly to get rich from the half-percent we'll get from parishioners' Amazon purchases — for every \$1,000 in purchases, we'll earn \$5," said Rector Robin Dodge. "But if enough parishioners sign up and use Amazon Smile, we'll certainly receive enough to make it worthwhile. And everything we receive we can use to help the many ministries of the church."

The entire shopping experience, products, and prices are identical to regular Amazon.

To sign up, visit <http://smile.amazon.com>.

Once there, you will be asked to identify your favorite charity. In the search box enter "**Church of the Holy Faith.**" You will see a list of possible matches. Select the one that says "**Church of the Holy Faith**" with the information at right that says "Santa Fe" and "Incorporation Year 1863.")

You will now see the Amazon Smile logo in the upper left corner. The rest is easy. Just start shopping. Once you've selected your charity everything in Amazon behaves the same way you have been used to.

Remember to use smile.amazon.com each time you shop. You have to think about it the first few times you return to Amazon, then it will come naturally. If you don't hit smile.amazon.com, and you don't see the Amazon Smile logo, then we will not get credit for your purchases. Remember to *SMILE* rather than *WWW*.

If you already use smile.amazon.com and want to change your designated charity to Holy Faith, log on to smile.amazon.com, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Under "Pick Your Own Charitable Organization," type in Church of the Holy Faith and click on the Search button. More than one option will appear, so make sure to select the one that says "**Church of the Holy Faith**" with the information at right that says "Santa Fe" and "Incorporation Year 1863.")

STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF GATHERING – MANY THANKS TO LESLEA AND FRANK MCCABE!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD





ANNUAL PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD





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For more information, please visit our new website at www.holyfaithchurchsf.org.

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