

# FAITHWAY Advent 2025 through Epiphany 2026

## The Church of the Holy Faith

welcomes all people into an everdeepening 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,

Holy Faith's Stewardship Campaign for 2026, "You Are the Light of the World," chaired by Kent and Kaki Grubbs, is off to a good start. More than 130 households have pledged more than 65% of the campaign's goal of \$1 million! But we're not there yet. We hope that everyone who looks to Holy Faith as their spiritual home in Santa Fe would make a pledge of support for the mission and ministry of Holy Faith for the coming year.



Pledging helps your Vestry, the parish's governing board, plan for a giving amount and thereby formulate a prudent budget. You can make your pledge for 2026 online at https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/stewardship.

" You are the Light of the World."

The stewardship theme comes from Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

By your supporting pledge -

You are the light of the world...Holy Faith has been a beacon of Christ's light for 162 years.

Let your light shine before others...through your acts of faithfulness, kindness, and charity.

So they may see your good deeds...through Holy Faith's Outreach efforts and Pastoral Care.

And glorify your Father in heaven...through Liturgy & Music, Community, and Hospitality.

This year's stewardship campaign is undergirded by prayer. You are invited to pray for the grace to hear how God wants your light to shine. Ask how Holy Faith can shine even brighter as a beacon of light in Santa Fe for the glory of God. You are invited to pray for the grace to hear how God is calling you to participate at Holy Faith in new ways or to deepen your current participation. Join your light with the light of all those in our beloved faith community. Let your light shine by writing your prayer intentions on gold ribbons, located in Palen Hall, to create a "Banner of Light" that will be brought back into the church when we meet our stewardship goal.

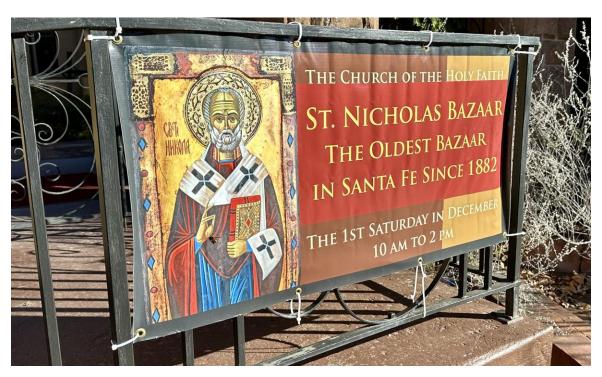
While we are sad over Mother Lynn's leaving, we are delighted by Father Simon's arrival and his enthusiasm. Things bode well for Holy Faith in the coming year. Pray that Holy Faith's light grows in commitment, membership, ministry, worship, discipleship, community, hospitality, and Spirit-led direction. Help Holy Faith carry Christ's torch to light the world and to be seen for God's glory.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Robin+ Rector

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#### A PRIESTLY CALL TO HOLY FAITH

STORY BY JAMES L. OVERTON AND PICTURES BY MARK CHILDERS

"I've never really known a time that I didn't want to be a priest."

For Fr. Simon Carian the call to a priestly life came clearly – and very early: his baptism in infancy.

"In an old ritual of baptism, it's asked, 'What do you ask of God's Church for this child?' And the answer was 'faith.' So, in a certain sense, too, the gift of faith comes when we're baptized and grafted into the body of Christ, into the communion of the faithful. You could say my faith journey began then," he said during a break from unpacking in his new office in Conkey House.

"I have wanted to be a priest my whole life," he said. "When I was five years old, I used to tell people that that's what I wanted to do when I grew up. I love being a priest."

A native New Mexican of Armenian descent, Fr. Carian is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. In Rome for advanced seminary studies for six years, Simon completed post-graduate work at the Vatican where he was ordained as a deacon in 2012. Returning home, he was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 2013 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis.



His call to the Episcopal Church might have turned a few heads from our neighbors down the street from Holy Faith.

"One thing that I especially love about the Episcopal Church is that you can have a traditional worship and be more open minded, more broad-minded. It's kind of a unique place. It's a big tent church," he said. "There's room for all kinds of different people here. I like this image of Saint Cyprian, where he says the church is a mother with a very big lap. I like that you can have both a traditional worship that's grounded in tradition, in history, and have something of that bigger lap that Saint Cyprian says the church should have."

He also likes the middle way for which Episcopalians are well known.

"I didn't want to be in a place that excluded people. So, in a sense, that's a common thread, or a golden thread, through all of this. I wanted to be able to serve God in a church that has beautiful traditional liturgy, that cares a lot about that, but that doesn't exclude anybody, for example, excluding divorced and remarried people from receiving Communion. I also came to see no reason why women should be excluded from the fullness of ministry in the body of Christ.

"I didn't want to serve in a place that emphasized a closed nature to Communion because I read in the Gospels that Jesus shared table fellowship with all people. And in fact, that was a thing that they gave him a hard time about. They said he eats with sinners and tax collectors! If he ate with sinners and tax collectors, who are we to exclude, we're the sinners and tax collectors! Who are we to exclude anyone?"

Fr. Robin called Fr. Simon as Associate Rector of Holy Faith from St. James Episcopal Church in Clovis, New Mexico, where he served as Rector. He has experience working in various pastoral capacities, including Native American and Hispanic/ Spanish-speaking communities. He has taught world religions at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU). Fr. Simon earned a master's degree in clinical and mental health counseling and is also a licensed mental health counselor in New Mexico, as is his wife, Jennifer (pictured on the next page with Fr. Simon and their daughter, Lucy), who is working to complete her PhD in counseling at Texas Tech University.



He comes to Holy Faith with an open mind, prepared to be a willing student.

"I consider myself a student, a learner, a seeker. I love to study the sacred scriptures and great spiritual authors. I have taught on the faculty in the religion department at ENMU and I view my role as an instructor more than anything to demonstrate a kind of enthusiasm for the subject, and the reasons why one might be enthusiastic for it and so come to love this literature or material. Hopefully some of that is contagious."

Given his years in Rome, Fr. Simon is also looking forward to experiencing the liturgical side of Holy Faith.

"I have a lot of respect for the integrity of all the different liturgical rites, eastern and western. I love all of that, but certainly in our western liturgy, Rite One is a high-water mark of what's possible in liturgical celebrations," he said. "The liturgy is something that's alive. It's not a museum piece, not something relegated to antiquity, but a lived reality."

# THE ANNUAL SCHEFFLER LECTURE TAKES US TO OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PICTURES BY CATHY GRONQUIST

# "Washington National Cathedral: Living into its Second Century"

The Holy Faith Library Committee was pleased to present the Rev. Canon Jan Naylor Cope (pictured, right) as the speaker for the annual Scheffler Lecture on October 17<sup>th</sup>. She has served as Provost at the Washington National Cathedral for the past 15 years and among her many impressive credentials is having been Fr. Robin's associate rector at St. David's in northwest D.C. before being called to her current position.

When Canon Cope asked for a show of hands of who had visited the Cathedral, several in the audience raised theirs, and many indicated that they'd participated in at least one of the online offerings.

She began by speaking about the Cathedral's first century, which concentrated on physically building the structure. In 1791, when Pierre L'Enfant laid out plans for the city of Washington, the intention was always to have a great church for national purposes. But it took an Act of Congress on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1893, to put things in motion. And in classic Congressional form, "They created us, they



did not fund us," she said. (Even today, they depend on private donations for upkeep and ministries; they receive no federal funding.) Then it wasn't until 1907 that the Bishop of Washington said, "We'll build it," which is how the Cathedral became Episcopal. Ground was broken and the cornerstone was laid, with Teddy Roosevelt among the over 10,000 in attendance. "Godspeed the work begun this day," the President said. Eventually, 150,000 tons of Indiana limestone, 231 stained glass windows, and 112 gargoyles went into the architectural masterpiece. The goal was to be a spiritual home for as many people as possible on the highest point in the city.

The audience in Palen Hall learned a lot about the Cathedral in a video Canon Cope showed that was part of their 2020 capital campaign, aiming to raise \$150 million. In fact, they raised \$185 million which was a godsend because the structure had sustained severe damage in a rare earthquake in 2011, and was still making repairs.

After a little more than a hundred years, there was a building that is a beautiful national treasure; now what? In another one of God's great blessings, it was just a few months before all churches were shuttered because of Covid that the Cathedral had put in new video equipment. "Covid changed everything for us," Canon Cope said. Like everyone else, they learned about this thing called Zoom. Their digital life and online ministry were born.

Beginning Easter Sunday 2020, people found them on the internet -55,000 streamed their services that day, and over a



million within about a week. The conclusion: a digital ministry is very important. Today, the Cathedral's online presence includes morning prayer, podcasts, recitals, Bible study and more. (Go to their website to see all the possibilities.) We learned that their podcast has diversified their audience by attracting younger members (52% of their listeners are 25-44 years of age) and 67% are male. Their website averages 120k visits per month. Their YouTube channel has racked up over 30 million views. They even have a 3D model of every aspect of the building, made with drone footage, that provides a complete digital twin in case they ever need to reconstruct it, as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris did.

At the intersection of sacred and civic life, the National Cathedral holds a unique place in this country, and it is in good hands with Canon Cope.

After a few questions for the speaker, there was a reception with refreshments put on by the Library Committee. As an added bonus, Canon Cope also gave the sermons at the two later services at Holy Faith that Sunday. If you missed this Lecture, you can view it on the Holy Faith YouTube channel. Or stop by the church library and take out Reconciliation, Healing and Hope: Sermons from Washington National Cathedral, which she edited.

# GOOD NEWS, (LIVE) STREAMING ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

STORY BY JANET SANDERS AND PICTURE BY MARK CHILDERS

The first four books of the New Testament, known as the Gospel, proclaim the "good news" of Christ's life, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. Written on papyrus, probably in the first 100 years after the crucifixion, they spread widely throughout the Roman empire in the early centuries after Christ's resurrection. Those books recount how the good news of Christ's incarnation and birth initially was shared: by an angel speaking privately to Mary and to Joseph, by a star signaling to the Magi in lands far away the impending birth, and by a multitude of angels in the sky heralding the nativity to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, Holy Faith continues to spread the good news across time and space through a particularly modern medium — online livestreaming and videos accessed through Holy Faith's website and YouTube channel. During these Advent and Christmas seasons, our evergrowing online congregation can share three services in addition to the regular 11:00 a.m. Sunday mass: the November 30th Advent Service of Lessons & Carols, the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day mass — thanks to the faithful service of our Livestream Ministry.

It began amidst a different holy season. On Wednesday in the second week in Lent, 2020, parish members were in the weekly Lenten program as Fr. Robin, Fr. Jim Gordon, and Canon Mark Childers were summoned to a Zoom conference with Bishop Hunn, along with the rest of the clergy of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The unthinkable was about to happen: as COVID spread, a lockdown was impending. After a brief conversation and directive from Fr. Robin, Mark

spent three hectic days working with a local tech consultant, running cable, burning up the Amazon website, and relying on overnight FedEx service.

On the following Sunday, with only five people allowed in the church in accordance with Diocesan protocol, Fr. Robin, Fr. Jim, Kathlene Ritch, Mark, and Ken Duran ensured Holy Faith went live online. In the midst of the isolation, fear, and suffering of COVID, our Livestream Ministry began with organist Mark and cantor Kathlene in the choir loft, Fathers Robin and Jim at the altar, and Ken in the center aisle with a small manually-operated camera on a tripod. While the medium was new to Holy Faith's clergy and congregation, the message was the familiar, eternal one of God's love.

For the next 19 months, the 11 a.m. Sunday service, along with other occasional services and several funerals, was livestreamed to Holy Faith members and hundreds of others across the country and even across the Atlantic. Amidst the now-empty pews, Ken -- familiar to us in his vestments as subdeacon, crucifer, or thurifer in regular and high masses -- on most of those Sundays was unseen and clad in more informal clothes as producer, director, cameraman, and handler-of-unexpected-tech-glitches to keep the "good news" streaming.

As the COVID epidemic continued, Holy Faith's Livestream Ministry expanded in its scope, technology, and congregation. In September of 2021, as America neared its infection peak of over 600,000 reported new cases per day, six people were trained on Holy Faith's new 6-camera Livestream system. Among them was devoted volunteer Marty Buchsbaum, who subsequently became the primary operator of the Livestream Ministry, with Ken stepping in a Sunday or two a month to give Marty a much-needed break.

COVID abated and we returned happily to Holy Faith's pews. Still, through the Livestream Ministry, worshippers continued to share our services in places far from Palace Avenue and at times other than Sunday mornings. Do we still have an online congregation? Do we!! The usual Sunday livestream averages 65-70 regular viewers, including some greatly loved long-time parishioners who now find it difficult to attend in person. Requests have increased for funerals to be livestreamed from the church, especially when travel for elderly or far-flung family is prohibitive.



After Marty's death in March, Ken returned to the hallway control center, with occasional support from one other volunteer on the Sundays when he is called again to don vestments and serve at the altar. Rather than feeling isolated in that small space beyond the sanctuary, Ken finds himself literally in the middle of the service as he uses the cameras to become the eyes of an unknown someone in a distant room who desires to share in our worship. He says, "This Ministry is really satisfying. There's joy in picking the camera angles, finding the best viewpoint for each part of the service, and keeping an eye out for something unexpected or special -- like moving in for a second view of the children's procession." Ken would love to share and grow this Ministry with at least two or three more volunteers. Contrary to popular belief, one does not need a pilot's license to fly our state-of-the-art camera system! For information on training, time commitment, etc., please feel free to contact Canon Mark Childers, our Director of Liturgy & Music, at 505-690-9237 -- or just stop by and see Ken any given Sunday at the livestream booth.

When we gather together in our exquisite church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to exchange Advent hymns for Christmas carols and welcome baby Jesus into the manager in the chancel, be aware and rejoice that at least 160 unheard, unseen worshipers will

share the worship services with us. Enabled by Holy Faith's Livestream Ministry, modern technology will transmit to all who seek to know the ancient but eternal good news: "Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."

#### MEET CAROLINE KOETSCH SCHEFFLER

STORY BY LORA MORTON

It's ironic that someone about whom we know so little has made such a big difference at Holy Faith. And that is Lt. Caroline R. Koetsch Scheffler.

We know that she was born in Guthrie, OK, on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1909, to Rovena and August Koetsch. She graduated from Rhode Island School of Design, then became a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. She met and married William G. Scheffler, who died at age 67 in 1967. They had no children.

An active member of Holy Faith, she is mentioned in Stanford Lehmberg's book of the church's history as being involved with our library since at least 1991.

Before her death in 2009 at age 100, and burial in the Santa Fe National Cemetery, she bequeathed her estate equally among El Castillo, where she lived at the end of her life, the Holy Faith Women's Guild, the Holy Faith Mission & Outreach Committee, and the Holy Faith Library. The Vestry directed the Holy Faith portions of Ms. Scheffler's bequest to the one Holy Faith Endowment in existence at the time, each with its own subaccount

The Holy Faith Library Committee has used the income from its portion of the endowment to help the Holy Faith library continue to be one of the finest parish libraries in the country. We stock the shelves with appropriate material, buy periodicals for the parish to read, donate money to organizations that promote reading, and keep up with electronic equipment so that parishioners can learn what books are available by going online to our website. A few years ago, the



Committee bought comfortable, attractive chairs so that reading in that room is inviting, as well as new, safe ladders for getting to those volumes on higher shelves. And in 2024, the Vestry was permitted by court order to move the Scheffler Library subaccount to a more recently created Endowment Fund that can be used for operating expenses so the Library Committee could pay a librarian's salary out of the yearly income. It was felt that Ms. Scheffler would have approved of this move, as she obviously cared about all aspects of the library.

In turn, the Library Committee sponsors the annual Scheffler Lecture, featuring a variety of inspiring speakers, in her name. We are indebted to the forethought of Caroline Scheffler for providing an abundance for the three groups at Holy Faith, and aim to do her justice.

# PRIESTLY THOUGHTS ON SAYING FAREWELL

STORY AND PICTURE BY JAMES L. OVERTON

"My priestly advice to self would be to realize that you can be in the moment."

With her departure from Holy Faith Mtr. Lynn Finnegan is off on a new adventure – catching up on her role as grandmother to a passel of grandkids in Colorado. She's also giving herself some priestly notes to self on navigating her faith and future. "I keep to my morning devotion that's so important to stay grounded in this time of just a lot of emotions, you know, a lot of excitement. My kids are so excited, but there's also some sadness," she said during a recent conversation in Los Alamos, her home of 33 years. "As you might imagine, it's change, and change can be so emotional.

"My priestly advice to self would be to realize that you can be in the moment. But change is hard, and these emotions are all valid, so don't fight them."

The decision to leave Holy Faith came after much deliberation and soul searching. She felt the simultaneous pull of family and the tug of ministry that revealed itself in years of being active – a force of nature – at Trinity on the Hill in Los Alamos. There she had nearly every job in the Episcopal church but…being a priest.

But arriving at Holy Faith newly minted in religious orders four years ago she found herself connecting the many dots in the formality of Rite One and its many liturgical expressions. "I was surprised by how much I came to love the liturgy and Holy Faith's emphasis on traditional liturgical practices. I didn't expect that. I knew I'd be okay with it, that I'd be open to it. But even when I was a Catholic, I was in churches that were not 'high church.""

Mtr. Lynn came from training at Trinity on the Hill, which is like a lot of other churches in the diocese that don't have the rich liturgical tradition that's foundational to The Church of the Holy Faith. "I was petrified in my first service that I was going to turn right when I was supposed to turn left, but that quickly went away, because at the time it was Father Robin (Dodge) and Father Jim (Gordon, now retired), and they were just so warm and welcoming and



understanding. Mark Childers (Director of Liturgy & Music) was also working with me on liturgical practices. "I was surprised by how much I grew to love it."

As part of her development as a priest, Lynn credits her years of being a lawyer in helping pull her sermons together. "Early in my legal career, I did jury work, so I had to tell a story that was convincing, but this (preaching) is so different. Before I hit that pulpit, I am praying so hard for the Holy Spirit just to take my words and that they bless and find whoever needs to be blessed by them. And sometimes the sermons that I've struggled with and thought I was headed in one direction wound up in another." she said on reflection.

"Early in my seminary career, we talked about the responsibility of conveying the Word of God with truth and faith. And that's a heavy responsibility. I can't just get up there and say whatever I feel like saying, so I take seriously the research that goes behind studying the Scripture and reading commentary and looking to other authorities."

And she learned something about messaging. "I was also told in seminary that sometimes, the sermon you write is the one that you personally need to hear," she said. "I guess it didn't surprise me, but it sure did hold true on occasion."

At Holy Faith, Lynn introduced "Ashes to Go" on the Plaza and at St. John's College for Ash Wednesday. She was active in providing cookies and snacks at St. John's to draw college students into Holy Faith. And she was a strong supporter off Holy Faith's ministry outreach to the homeless in Santa Fe.

But she likes being a parish priest. "The other priestly advice I would give myself – and my husband is skeptical that I'll follow it – is to really be still and listen to the Holy Spirit and not to jump into anything, but to really discern," she said. "And Bishop (Michael) Hunn told me: 'You're entering the wilderness again, this is a period of discernment, like when you're in seminary.""

As she and family settle into their new home in Loveland, Colorado, Lynn has already been informed that baby-sitting adventures with four grandkids await and that hiking, exploring and deferred family gatherings remain default priorities.

But she honors her next chapter and future adventures with her time spent at Holy Faith.

"I would just like to say how grateful I am right out of seminary to have been able to experience the fullness of all the sacraments. I've done baptisms, I've done weddings, I've done reconciliation rites, I've done last rites, I've spoken at funerals. You know, I feel like Holy Faith has just given me this incredible richness of experience that I hope I can take elsewhere, and I'm really grateful for that.

#### ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR 2025

#### STORY AND PICTURES BY JAMES L. OVERTON



The Holy Faith Women's Guild was created in 1878 and is the oldest Episcopal guild in New Mexico. The small group of women held the first St. Nicholas Bazaar the next year to promote the church's building fund. They previously had worked to pay for the land on which Holy Faith sits today.

Known for his kindness, generosity and gift-giving to the poor, St. Nicholas inspired the story of Santa Claus. He is the patron saint of merchants, sailors, prisoners and children.

The church, as parishioners knew it for decades, was completed. In the early days as Holy Faith grew, the Guild gave about half of its proceeds to the parish and half to community needs and other projects which the guild has supported historically.

In early days, the church building had no heat. Not surprisingly, the Guild used proceeds of a subsequent bazaar to pay for a chimney and two stoves. The late historian and parishioner, Dr. Stanford Lehmberg wryly noted, "Fundraising was the most important activity of the Guild."

And since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Guild's core membership has focused their energy on the annual Saint Nicholas Bazaar, a tradition dating back 146 years. The bazaar is held the Saturday of the first weekend in December.



# All the women of Holy Faith, technically, are members of the Women's Guild.

"We are kind of famous for our potholders," Ruth Rael, President of the Guild said. "People line up at 9 o'clock and when we open the doors, they either go to the potholder table or Twice Blessed first. Twice Blessed is like a jumble sale but it's good stuff, and it's usually unique, like someone's grandmother's china."



The Women's Guild makes some 250 potholders each year. "Everybody will work on the potholders. It's an assembly-line process. Some person cuts them out. Somebody else turns them over. Somebody else stuffs the potholders. Somebody else finishes the potholders. They sell out every year.





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

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The Reverend Simon R. Carian, Associate Rector
The Reverend Madelynn Johnston, Assisting Priest
Canon Mark Edw. Childers, Parish Administrator and Director of Liturgy & Music
Kathlene Ritch, Youth Choir Director
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Virginia Lopez, Librarian

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Preston Stone, Junior Warden
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Pam Jones, Secretary
George Case
Kaki Grubbs
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Rebecca Tobey
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A t-coil system is installed in the Church. If your hearing device is not equipped with this system, please see an usher who will provide you with alternate hearing assistance.

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