



FAITHWAY – Late Pentecost 2022

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,

It's great to be back amongst you! After my three-month sabbatical, I realize how much I love Holy Faith and you its dear and faithful people. I give immense thanks to God and to you for having given me this opportunity (required by the diocese of all rectors after every six years of ministering in a parish) for rest, reflection, and renewal.



During the sabbatical I focused on the Rule of St. Benedict and Benedictine Spirituality as a means to provide structure and shape for my time away. To assist me, I made retreats at three Benedictine houses: the Episcopal Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York; the ecumenical Community of Jesus in Orleans, Massachusetts; and the Roman Catholic St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, where I took final vows to become an oblate - a formal association - with that monastery.

"...We're all in this together. For me this is the great take home lesson from Saint Benedict."

Benedictine Spirituality is known for its balance among prayer, study, work, and rest. The horarium of a monastery retreat provides a framework to accomplish this balance, but how can one turn every day into a mini-retreat? I think everyone is seeking balance in his or her own life. On sabbatical, I was able to fall into a rhythm among prayer (saying the Daily Offices with time for contemplation), study (reading and reflection), work (exercise and gardening), and rest (family time, connecting with friends and the arts, and naps!), which I hope to continue here in Santa Fe.

But what about the parish? How can we instill a sense of Benedictine Spirituality and these Benedictine values here at Holy Faith? I have had the pleasure at a couple of recent Sunday Forums of sharing some of my thoughts on this, such as forming a Benedictine study group, encouraging parishioners to commit to attending weekday liturgies, resurrecting parish workdays, and offering group retreats. You can see a slide show of one of my forums at <https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/formation/#sundayforum>.

An insight into application of Benedictine Spirituality in the parish came the second Sunday of my sabbatical from a sermon by Brother Robert Sevensky, a former superior of Holy Cross Monastery:

“We’re all in this together. For me this is the great take home lesson from Saint Benedict. He ends his Rule by speaking of the good zeal of monks and concludes with these words: ‘Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life.’ (RB 72:11-12) All together!

Beloved, this is not a competition or a race in which one of us gets to the goal first or at least finishes among the medal winners. No, this is more a pilgrimage. And if you’ve ever been on a pilgrimage, you know that the idea is not to get there first (wherever “there” might be). The goal is to get there together... Benedict’s vision is for today. And if monasticism has anything to offer to the contemporary world [and I would add, to the contemporary Church], it may be to model, however imperfectly, a diverse community of ordinary people living together in fragile unity and Christian hope and holy love.”

Yes, we’re all in this together. Because isn’t this what we are at Holy Faith - a diverse community of ordinary people striving to live together in fragile unity and Christian hope and holy love? As we emerge from the pandemic and feel more comfortable being together, I ask you to renew yourself and recommit yourself - to Christ, to Holy Faith, and to our communal life together. On October 30 during the Sunday Forum between the 8:30 and 11:00 liturgies, a Ministry Fair featuring many of Holy Faith’s ministries was your first opportunity for renewal and recommitment to assist you in discerning where God may be calling you to serve. It is not too late to sign up for how you would like to be more involved at Holy Faith.

This year’s stewardship campaign “Renewal and Recommitment” kicked off November 6, All Saints’ Sunday, with the beginning of a series of testimonials from parishioners about their renewal and recommitment, and a festive reception after Choral Evensong that evening at 6:00 p.m. Pledges of support for Holy Faith’s mission and ministry in the coming year will be gathered and blessed at God’s altar at all services on November 20, Christ the King Sunday, and celebrated as we gather for the parish’s Thanksgiving Dinner that evening at 5:00 p.m.

We are all in this together. Friends, as we begin this seventh year of ministry together, let us renew ourselves and recommit ourselves. Recalling the good zeal that St. Benedict spoke about at the conclusion of his Rule, may we have zeal for the Lord, may we have zeal for Holy Faith (“Zeal for your house consumes me” Psalm 69:9), and may we have zeal for one another in our communal life and for the ministries which God has given us. Let us prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Fr. Robin+



Photography by Cathy Gronquist

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FAITHFULLY REMEMBERING

STORY JANET SANDERS AND PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES OVERTON

A memory of a dear friend was sparked for Fr. Robin during a recent visit to England as her name was spoken during the service in the Anglican prayer category “year’s mind.” This naming of those deceased within our parish family on the approximate anniversary of their death reminds us of the “cloud of witnesses” referred to in Hebrews 12 verse 1: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” When he returned, Fr. Robin suggested that this remembrance be included in Holy Faith’s prayer list prayed during morning and evening prayer and included in the Thursday E-blast (button on top right corner) for our at-home devotions.

Our faith teaches that, whatever our personal sanctity as individuals, through baptism we are consecrated to God and become members of the Body of Christ and members of a Communion of Saints whose relatedness to Christ and one another transcends death. Just as we do in the rites of All Saints’ and All Souls’ Day celebrations, when we name in prayer those we have known directly, those who gave us life or who nurtured our faith lives, we continue the ancient practice of praying for the saints who have gone before us and acknowledging they are praying for us.

Earlier in the letter to the Hebrews (11:1), we are told “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.” The naming in our prayers of those souls joined in the cloud of witnesses proclaims our faith that, although unseen, they and eventually we are assured of unification with one another and with God.



THE CELEBRATION OF DEATH IN LIFE

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES L. OVERTON



Setting up an Ofrenda or “offering” dedicated to the departed dates to Mexico’s deeply rooted Aztec beliefs in the pre-Hispanic era. Over the centuries it became intertwined with Catholic traditions and part of Mexico’s *Día de los Muertos* or Day of the Dead honoring loved ones who have passed.

This year an *Ofrenda* celebrating children made its debut at Holy Faith as part of the Children’s Chapel “Trunk or Treat” Halloween festivities, which also included a screening of the film, *Coco*. *Coco* is the story of a 12-year-old boy named Miguel, who is accidentally transported to the “Land of the Dead” where he seeks the help of his deceased musician great-great-grandfather to return him to his family among the living and to reverse his family’s ban on music.

The inspiration for the *Ofrenda* came from parishioners Lisa Emory and Pam Jones who are volunteer leaders of Holy Faith’s Children’s and Family Ministries. The idea resonated with parents of Holy Faith’s growing number of young worshipers. “Incorporating the *Ofrenda* tradition into our church year is a great way for our young parishioners to stay connected to their departed loved ones, sooth emotional losses, and begin to explore the theology of life beyond death in an intimate and accessible way,” Lisa Emory said. Her daughter Rosie had her own thoughts on the evening and the film. “Rosie asked how the breads/sweets would be eaten by our loved ones in Heaven,” Lisa said afterwards.

"I think the *Ofrenda* was a great idea," said Kathlene Ritch, whose son, seven-year-old Andrew Oakes, is a new acolyte in training.

Through the years Day of the Dead celebrations have evolved from a month-long celebration to All Saints' Day, on November 1, which traditionally celebrates the saints of the Church, and November 2, All Souls' Day, which commemorates all the faithful departed. The observance begins with the creation of altars in homes, usually by older members of a family or community.

The six most common objects include:

Skulls typically made of granulated sugar, meringue powder and water.

Marigolds, often referred to as "flowers of the dead." Tradition holds that the bright orange blooms help attract souls to the altar.

Bread -- *pan de Muerte* ("bread of the dead"): Soft, sweet bread for "hungry souls" is designed with a circle of limbs to mimic the shape of skull and crossbones. (Many *Ofrendas* display water or tequila for arriving "thirsty souls." Not so at Palen Hall.)

Salt is said to "quench the thirst" of souls. It is frequently laid out in the pattern of a cross so "the soul won't be corrupted."

Photos placed on the altar of someone who is deceased, otherwise they "won't be drawn to the altar and cannot cross over."

"When I told Andrew about it, he seemed intrigued, but not too involved. However, a few days later when I suggested that we honor a dear friend Ms. Maria, who died this past summer, he got the sweetest look on his face (best way I can describe it is sadness and resolution together) and he was very pleased when he saw the picture," Kathlene said. Kathlene sees the *Ofrenda* as another way of teaching the young about faith, if not celebration of life. "I'm sure this was another way of helping him face death and thinking about loss, heaven and eternal life," Kathlene said. "I'm glad we could do this, and I hope it becomes a tradition at our church!"





THE LIVING WORD: COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNION

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PHOTOGRAPH BY BONNIE HARDWICK



At the latest Scheffler lecture, held on Friday, October 14th, the audience in Palen Hall was treated to a provocative lecture by theologian, scholar and consultant Dr. Christopher Wells (pictured, above) who, for the last 13 years, has been executive director and publisher of “The Living Church” magazine. Holy Faith supports the foundation behind the periodical and so we receive several copies of each issue (which, of course, are available in the Holy Faith library). In January, Dr. Wells will move to London to take the post of Director of Unity, Faith and Order for the Worldwide Anglican Communion, to which he was named by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

His talk looked at the word of God, as well as the Word, which we know as the second person of the Trinity. This Word becomes incarnate and walks around and speaks words that have been prophetically anticipated in the Old Testament, and quotes the holy scriptures—including about himself.

“Visible words” are what St. Augustine calls the sacraments, so we can think of the sacraments as language. We can hear Jesus speaking to us in communion as he offers us his body and blood. By extension, the publication of ideas, in whatever form, has some relationship to Jesus Christ, the eternal Word.

What if we were to think of our words as accountable to Jesus’s words, to words spoken by God? We might consider speaking in the way that Christ spoke through his actions, in his obedience to the Father, a perfect reflection of God’s love. One mind, one love. The result of this? “To communicate well is to be in communion, and vice versa,” he said. And as Psalm 19 (a Dr. Wells’ favorite) concludes, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.”

Dr. Wells also spoke about unity, as Anglicans and as Christians. “When you don’t have unity, you have all kinds of competing truths.” If Christians are going to try to get to the bottom of truth, then unity is not an optional extra. We also need to get back, as Christians, to a robust conversation about and commitment to faith and order. We need both. “I think this would yield a more confident Anglicanism,” he said. To see and hear all of this lecture, you may check out a copy of the DVD from our library.

After a Q and A period, the library committee offered delicious refreshments and started planning for the next lecture, scheduled for April 2023. See you then!

"MY CHARACTERS LED THE WAY" - A LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE WITH ELAINE PINKERTON COLEMAN

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PHOTOGRAPH BY BONNIE HARDWICK

The audience that gathered in the Holy Faith library on Tuesday, August 23, was entertained by many-talented parishioner Elaine Pinkerton Coleman who's been a member of Holy Faith since 1980. She's been a writer since getting her first journal at age 10 and goes by Elaine Pinkerton.

Her presentation focused on her newest novel, *The Hand of Ganesh*, which came out at the end of March. Equal parts self-actualization, travelogue, and mystery/adventure, the story is set in New Mexico as well as India.

Tying this multi-generational tale together is a hand severed at the wrist—a fragment of a sculpture of the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesh which had been found in the Bay of Bengal. (Or so the street urchin tells the British traveler when he sells it to him in 1815.)

Elaine read excerpts from the book which follows how the hand changes hands until it ends up being discovered in an attic by two young women, who then make their way to India to return the relic to its home.

The author told us she'd been inspired by a 2005 news article about a hidden, ancient Indian city that had been revealed by a tsunami. She explained how being quarantined during the pandemic motivated her to work on the book and get it done. The plot evolved as the characters, some from two previous novels about India, led her along.

Since one of the novel's themes is adoption—two characters are obsessed with finding their birthmothers—Fr. Jim asked Elaine about her reunion with her own birth mother. It had been disappointing, she said. However, she speaks highly of her adoptive parents.

As always, there were refreshments in the Kinsolving Room after the talk. Elaine's novels are available at Garcia St. Books and she has a blog: www.elainepinkerton.wordpress.com



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS VIA THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

STORY BY MOTHER LYNN FINNEGAN AND PHOTOGRAPH FROM WEB



My mother, with fourteen grandchildren, decided her grandmotherly role at Christmas was going to be more than procuring yet another toy to add to the pile of presents under the Christmas tree. She introduced her grandchildren to the concept of "alternate giving" by purchasing honor card "gifts" of a goat, or chicks, or honeybees, donated in their honor through Heifer International. My children absolutely loved this gift and every year looked forward to finding out which animal Grandma had gifted.

On Sunday December 4th in Palen Hall during the Adult Forum time (9:30 – 11 a.m.), you will have the opportunity to do your own alternative gift shopping. We have invited local non-profit agencies to set up display tables with alternative gift options for your purchase. All proceeds go directly to the agencies. The agencies invited are recipients of grants through Holy Faith's Mission and Outreach Committee, so this is also a chance to find out more about the organizations we support. While we do not yet have the final list of participants, our Mission and Outreach Committee grantees include: The Interfaith Community Shelter, Esperanza Shelter, Coming Home Connection, The Sky Center, Resolve, Gerard's House, Care Net and Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding.

The Alternative Gift Fair is a nice complement to the St. Nicholas Bazaar (scheduled for Dec. 3rd). It provides an opportunity to shop for those who live far away or who don't need more "things." Some benefits of attending an Alternative Gift Fair:

Encourages gifts of compassion

Rejects a consumer culture and puts the “Christ” in Christmas
 Does away with time-consuming shopping!
 Educates about the mission of our non-profit grant recipients
 Builds community relationships
 Fantastic family learning experience
 Inspires gift recipients to “pay it forward”

We have been given a great gift of love in the birth of Christ. What better way to celebrate gratitude for that gift than to give to others this Christmas season with mindfulness and compassion?

PICTURES FROM THE RECENT MINISTRIES FAIR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES VAUGHAN



STAY SAFE – HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ALL OF US

STORY BY JANET SANDERS

Churches in the Diocese of the Rio Grande currently do not require masks but remain committed to protecting our congregations with reasonable precautions as the Covid virus remains active in New Mexico.

The Center for Disease Control recommends that people ages 5 years and older receive one updated (bivalent booster) if it has been at least 2 months since their last Covid vaccine dose, whether that was a primary series dose or an original booster. The updated (as of September 2022) booster is called “bivalent” because it protects against both the original virus causing Covid and the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5.

The New Mexico Department of Health provides appointments to receive free vaccine doses by calling 1-855-600-3453; online at vaccineNM.org, vaccineNM.org/kids, vaccine.gov; or through your personal medical provider or pharmacist.

AND FINALLY – THE ANNUAL PET BLESSING IN PICTURES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES L. OVERTON



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

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