

All Saints' Herald

December
2023

Newsletter of
All Saints Anglican Parish
Aiken, South Carolina

A Parish of the
Anglican Catholic Church
Diocese of the South

From My Notebook....

Reminiscence

A Snowy Christmas Eve Journey



It was Christmas Eve 1966. I was spending the Holidays along with my mother at my cousin's home in Northport on Long Island.

We all decided to go into the city to shop and just see the decorations, visit Rockefeller Center to watch the ice skaters, and, of course, to see the windows of Macy's with their magnificent display.

It was cold but the excitement of this special time of the year made it tolerable.

Near the time we were to head for the car and begin the drive back to Northport, it began to snow. I was amazed to be in New York City on Christmas Eve, with snow falling as we gazed in the windows of the department stores and walked along the streets.

As we began our drive back, it started to snow harder, and soon traffic on the expressway began to back up.

It took some time to make the return trip but we did arrive safely, and the snow continued to fall.

We warmed ourselves, had supper, and reminisced about our younger days

in South Carolina with lots of family coming together to celebrate Christmas.

Soon, it was time for my mother and me to walk down to the Episcopal Church in Northport. All the while, it had been snowing and snowing.

We arrived in plenty of time for the midnight service, which, as all Christmas Eve services, was beautiful and inspiring.

When the service was ended, and we walked out of the church, the snow had stopped, and the sky was filled with stars. The air was still, and all was quiet, as we walked back to the house.

That moment in time was so beautiful that it remains etched in my memory, as upon glass. I still see the city in the snow, the town blanketed in white, and that beautiful starry night.

All I could think of was what happened on this special night some two thousand years ago in Bethlehem when our Saviour was born.

There, in a stable, protected from the elements, Jesus Christ came into the world.

What a joyous moment for all of Creation, and who were the first to be told that momentous event in all of the history of mankind but shepherds. Shepherds.

Just imagine. The Saviour of the world, God himself, came into the world as a baby — and the first to know about it were humble shepherds.

But when we think about it, how more appropriate was it for Jesus Christ, the ultimate, the Divine Shepherd, to be revealed first to shepherds, as we are his sheep, and he, our Shepherd. Yes, all of mankind were his sheep, and he came into the world to care for his sheep, to nurture them, and to restore them in their relationship with their Creator, God the Father.

Announced to the world by Angels and worshipped by kings, this baby Jesus was destined to be the Shepherd of our souls and our redeemer.

Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, as all did in those times — on foot or riding upon a donkey, each somewhat aware of the treasure that was in the womb of the Virgin Mary, but their concerns of the moment were the trip and finding adequate shelter for the inevitable birth.

And so it took place in a stable in the humblest of surroundings — the Son

of God, indeed, God Incarnate, entering the world in a stable and being laid in a manger — the place where animals ate and slept, seeking shelter from the elements on bitter cold nights.

Having endured the long journey and the stresses of childbirth, Mary rests, cradling her newborn son, at that time fully comprehending that she had given birth to God. How else could God have entered into our world to take upon himself our flesh and be one of his Creatures, except through the womb of a human being — through the womb of the Virgin Mary, who was to be remembered from thenceforth as the Mother of God, for, indeed, what else could she have been at that moment in time.

On Christmas Eve in 1966, on a beautiful and glorious night, as I walked back from the church, my thoughts were on just that scene. And I remembered the words of the Carol —

*The Snow lay on the ground,
The stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born
On Christmas night.*

May your memories of Christmases past be so fond and truly inspiring, and may you, on Christmas Eve, experience the welling up of his Presence.



Announcements & Parish News

Scoured from the Weekly Bulletins & Elsewhere

It's Official — All Saints' has a New Deacon

The Vestry and Fr. Alexander are excited to announce that we will have a new Deacon, as the **Rev. Charles Lance Davis**, begins his transition from St. Luke's to our Parish to become part of our clergy staff. He will be fulltime in January.



ACW Lunch Set

The ACW lunch for December will be on the 19th, 11:30, at the **Park Avenue Oyster Bar & Grill** where "Betsy's Around the Corner" used to be. If planning to attend, please let Betty Alexander know as soon as possible so reservations can be confirmed.

Men of All Saints' will meet on Tuesday the 19th

The **Men of All Saints'** (MOAS) are persistent and will meet on Tuesday the 19th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall for this month's dinner. Please let Fr. Alexander know if you plan to attend. No menu set at this time but it won't be turkey!. As always, suggestions welcome — volunteer chefs appreciated!

ACW Adopts a Family for Christmas

The ACW has adopted a family for Christmas as recommended by Children's Place. A sign up sheet with a

list of items to donate is on the bulletin board. Deadline for donations is Wednesday, December 13th. Donations may be left in the Parish Hall.

Budget Planning Time

The Vestry is in the process of planning the Parish budget for 2024. The budget will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in January. This brings to mind that the rector will be sending out his annual member canvass letter, encouraging those who pledge to submit their **Pledge Cards** as soon as possible to help the **Finance Committee** as they prepare the budget. Pledge Cards are also in the Narthex. This is especially important, as we now have a Deacon to assist the rector.

Change in Vestry Meeting

The Vestry meeting for December will be on the second Monday instead of the second Tuesday due to Fr. Alexander's post-op visit to the surgeon. He offers his apologies for any inconvenience.

All Saints' Herald

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Contrasting Birthday Celebrations

Celebration with a Flair

A small group of friends joined with **Dieter Voegele** and **Colleen Chandler** at the Park Avenue Oyster Bar & Grill to celebrate **Desiree's** birthday on Monday, November 6th.

It was a festive occasion with heavy h'ordeuvres, a variety of beverages, and "bubbly" to toast the "Birthday Girl".

Attending from all Saints' were **Colleen Chandler, Zach Ratchford, Ken & Amy Connor, Fr. George & Batty Alexander**, and, of course, **Dieter**.



As is customary, we rarely discuss age, especially when it concerns young women.



How to Celebrate in Hospital

Trina Crocker celebrated her birthday last month while in hospital for a hip replacement. Her daughter, **Ann-Ray**, and two granddaughters shared the occasion providing a cake with candles.

Carl Bottomley found the photos on Facebook so we figured if they're on Facebook, they're fair game!

We wish Trina a speedy recovery and that she'll return home soon.



One of the Original 13 Founders of All Saints' Nancy Wilds Featured on Tribute Wall at the Aiken Center for the Arts

Nancy Wilds was not only a founding member of **All Saints'** she was also one of the founders of the **Aiken Center for the Arts** and now rightfully featured on their **Tribute Wall**.

More than a few decades ago, the **Center for the Arts** was located in the stables at Rose Hill Estate, the same stables that later became a restaurant.

Nancy had set up quite an operation there including kilns to fire ceramics.

That was even before she made the stain glass windows for **All Saints'**.



Narthex Rug Gets New Life

Just in case you haven't noticed, the rug in the Narthex is not new — it's been cleaned and looks new.



Thanks to Oriental Rug Specialist on Whiskey Road, the rug received a new life recently.

They picked it up, cleaned it, and returned it all clean with no charge. It's for the church they said. So a big thank you to the folks at Oriental Rug Specialist.



Aged Tree Removed to Avert Disaster

It was a grand old tree but alas it had finally given way to age and disruption of its cramped plot.

So, we called upon O.A.K. Services, tree specialist to safely remove it. It was not an easy job because of its location and size, Nevertheless, the task was accomplished with precision and well documented with photos by Kathy Clark, our multi-talented Administrative Assistant.



Now, the next project is to replace it. If you have any suggestions, pass them along to Kathy Clark.



In the Beginning

By Fr. Alexander

Some things I repeat because I think they are worth repeating, and, while reflective of some of my inmost thoughts and feeling, they refocus our attention on spiritual reality, such as the following:

Fall is a spectacular time of the year. As the earth tilts slowly in the opposite direction, the angle of the sun changes, and the air cools and clears.

The sky during the day becomes bluer, and the stars at night seem brighter as the summer haze dissipates.

In a last display before hunkering down for the winter, trees and shrubs turn brilliant colors before shedding their leaves.

Many of God's creatures busy themselves preparing for the cold to come, scurrying about gathering nuts and such to tide them over the winter.

Indeed, fall is a busy time of the year. It's not the end but it's not the beginning, either. It's more a time of preparation, preparation for something to come: maybe the end, or perhaps a new beginning. Nevertheless, it's a preparation.

We think of spring as a beginning, and, most certainly, it is, of a sort, a beginning when all of nature renews itself, and all of God's creation seems to come alive again.

But, there is a real beginning, a time when all things were created and came into existence, not in a haphazard fashion of randomness but in an orderly manner governed by laws.

We tend to call these rules that govern all of creation laws of nature but, in reality, they are divine laws. Without them, we would not have fall or spring, summer or winter.

There was a time, in the beginning, when all things were created, not by accident, not without reason, for we are the prime examples of a reasonable creation by a divine Creator.

If this were not so, we would not be able to question our beginning; we would not be able to exercise the faculties which distinguish us in the world we inhabit.

More and more, science, based on our uniquely endowed reason, has verified that creation is governed by laws, and has found that even randomness is orderly.

But, it was not science that revealed to us the origin of our existence.

It was God himself who revealed to us our divine origin and purpose.

St. John, in his Gospel, expresses it most beautifully in the very first verses:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

In his Gospel, we come to understand that it was God who, through his Son, created everything, not without a purpose, for our purpose is to become the sons of God through the worship of our Creator.

For that reason, God sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world that, through Him, we might have life, life for the purpose that God intended, life eternal with him.

Just as with all his creation, God provides us with laws to govern our lives; but, because we were created in his image, that is, endowed with reason, we alone of all creatures have the free-will to accept or deny our Creator, to

love or not love, to obey or to disobey.

St. John touches on that, saying: *He came unto his own and his own received him not. But such as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God.*

What St. John tells us in his Gospel is so easily verified by the beauty of God's creation.

What has muddied the waters of reason is our free-will, that awesome capability to go against what has been reasonably demonstrated, and it has led human beings to falsely believe that, as the pinnacle of God's creation, we are somehow better than our Creator.

But, there is still hope; and, we celebrate that hope every year with the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light that shines in the darkness from the beginning.

Wednesday the 6th....

St. Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 8th....

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Monday the 11th....

Vestry meets at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday the 13th....

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr: Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday the 17th....

Advent 3: Lessons & Carols at 4:00 p.m. Supper follows in Parish Hall. Cost is \$10 each.

Tuesday the 19th....

Feria:

ACW Lunch at 11:30 at *Park Avenue Oyster Bar & Grill*.

Men of All Saints' meet at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday the 20th....

Ember Wednesday: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday the 21st....

St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday the 23rd....

Decorate the church at 10:00 a.m.

See Page 17 for Christmas Services

Lance Davis Ordained Deacon — Assigned to Assist at All Saints'



On November 17th, Charles Lance Davis became a Deacon in the Anglican Catholic Church in ceremonies at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Augusta.

The newly ordained deacon has been assigned to All Saints' to assist Fr. Alexander.

Those in the ceremony included the Rev. Canon Jonathan Foggin, Fr. Daniel Trout, and Fr. John Everett, Rector of St. Luke's.

It was a beautiful ceremony in typical Anglican fashion.

A lunch reception followed.

Attending from All Saints' were: Chris Roberts and Fr. George & Betty.

We look forward to having Dcn. Davis as a member of our clergy. He will be joining us soon as he makes the transition from St. Luke's to All Saints'.



Above, Fr. Daniel Trout delivers the sermon; in photo to the left, Dcn. Davis receives the Dalmatic, symbolic of the Diaconate; below left, Dcn. Davis receives the Bishop's blessing prior to reading the Gospel; and below, he is seen reading the Gospel for the first time.



In the top photo, Dcn. Davis takes the oaths required to be ordained a Deacon in the Anglican Catholic Church; in the photo directly above, Dcn. Davis lies prostrate during the Ordination Litany; and, in the photo to the right, the Bishop lays his hands upon the candidate's as he is ordained Deacon.





Outreach

by Carl Bottomley

*...each service
represents a gift
for the residents.*

Well, the hoards of people who have invaded your homes have pretty much all departed. Our first annual holiday of a long holiday season is now finished. And now we start our celebration of our second national holiday; Black Friday is upon us. Once started as the Friday following Thanksgiving, it then was moved to the day after Halloween, followed quickly with the need for more income to August. And at no time is there a mention of the coming of the infant in Bethlehem. Why? Guess it's not profitable. The sad truth, I believe, is that our very sacred holiday of Christmas has, over the many decades, been turned into a passion of more, greater than, I need, I want, I "gotta" have, and now, not yesterday, or the day before but on the 25th. Either wrapped or stuffed in a sack called a sock hung someplace in a home, with or without a fireplace.

The fireplace was the favorite spot, so the fat guy coming down the chimney wouldn't miss it. Oh what happiness, lasting for a millisecond, as we tear into the next "needed" gift. Never a breath between the mad scramble for more.

Somehow this morning, as I packed up and headed to Benton House to offer our "Outreach" services, I had to dig

deep to find some festive spirit. Singing the hymn, Silent Night, the day after Thanksgiving needed a much needed shot of adrenaline. But the residents were enthusiastic, and so was our parish volunteer Bob Low. So we managed nicely, and it was once again, a success; "outreach", what is it, in our faith, or secular life — how do we live this thing labeled "outreach"?

When I was a child — and that's a very long time ago — the Christmas season began following Thanksgiving, not before. A tree was decorated on Christmas Eve. A Crèche was pulled, together with Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus, centered right in the front, surrounded by some kings, shepherds and a hoard of animals. Always placed directly, right in the middle of our gifts. Gifts were placed under a tree by this mystical guy called "Santa Claus", but, long after my brother and I were tucked into bed, prayers said, cookies and milk set on a table by the tree, and with a vision of this fat guy in a red suit showing up with a herd of cows with horns. Never quite understood how all of this flew through the night sky, never did hit anything, never had a crash, amazing! Our dreams were not filled with sugar plums but, rather, with the next cap pistol, baseball, tennis racket, but, frequently, socks, underwear, a sweater were found as we un-

wrapped our presents in a mannerly fashion. How did this red-suited guy know what we needed. Amazing! And as the sun finally rose, a breakfast, getting dressed in our "Sunday" clothes, and heading to Mass. Always, it was a tradition in our home. And think in those years so many decades ago, perhaps hundreds of families celebrated Christmas as Christmas. The Feast of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

And through our family's tradition, the birth of Christ was first and foremost. Certainly, we laughed and had a wonderful time opening our gifts and thanking everyone, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, mom and dad, grandparents. Each got a special thank-you, and we were grateful. Very grateful.

How does this all tie into "outreach", our little program that we offer to nursing/assisted care homes here in Aiken? Well, each service represents a gift for the residents. With each of their days filled with doctor's appointments, their meals, bingo, coloring by the numbers, perhaps, if lucky, a visit from a family member. But then we show up. And we bring a gift to the residents that wish to participate. We bring laughter; we bring music, never the same, each day something different, a pat on the back, a smile, letting them know the sweater they're wearing is sensational, their nails look wonderful, their hair looks fantastic. Always the unexpected, the surprise when they are asked to take center stage, and how proud they are when

they can identify a page number, or remember a melody. The warmth of a handshake. Each a gift, taken with gratitude, and always a thank-you.

Certainly our Lord, Father, gave us His Son, and it was a gift given freely to each of us. It was a gift of such magnitude that none of can even begin to fathom it. Yet he was given, in a simple, humble way, not at an Embassy Suites, but a barn, a stable. A bed of straw, not a super hyper-superduper-firm-adjustable mattress, no view of a beach or snow capped mountains. Not swaddled in 600ct silken sheets, but much more fitting to the magnificence of the event, a simple cloth blanket. There was no build up of advertising, no promotions; the focus was the baby, not the glamour, not the glitz, not tinsel, not lights in a variety of colors, strategically placed to fit a decorator's idea of where and how it all should look. Simple.

Outreach is simple; it is a gesture; it is simple; it is a reaching out to someone or something, be they close or a stranger; it is an act of kindness; it is an extension of yourself, and it takes many forms.

But, above all, it is an act of unconditional love, of generosity that knows no bounds, by our friends,, our family, our community, our parish church, the rector, our fellow parishioners, the cashier at Publix, the Public Safety Officer saying they are giving you a warning, the grey-haired guy in the back
(Continued on page 17.)

From the Deacon's Bench....



Advent Lessons & Carols

By the Rev'd Deacon C. Lance Davis

Advent Lessons and Carols is an Anglican service that consists of the narration of salvation history from Creation to the Incarnation, interspersed with carols and anthems appropriate to the season.

Analogous to the Easter Vigil, it is a prelude to the festivities of the Nativity. Although our Anglican tradition has inherited many ancient liturgies, it may be a bit surprising to learn that the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* is a fairly recent invention.

The first recorded service of *Lessons & Carols* dates from Christmas Eve 1878 in Truro Cathedral, England. It was reported that the service was originally intended to keep the men out of pubs before Christmas Eve Mass. Held at 10:00 PM, over 400 people attended that first service.

When the Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev. Edward Benson, was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury a few years later, the Nine Lessons service gained in popularity across England and the wider Anglican world.

Notably in 1918, the dean of King's College, Cambridge introduced the service into the college chapel as a means both of assuaging the grief of the

Great War and restoring a sense of faith and hope to the people of England ravaged by the horrors of that war. The service was so successful, that it has been offered continuously at King's College ever since; and, since 1928, has been broadcast every year by radio to millions around the world.

The liturgy has proved enormously popular due to its simple, but direct, exposition of the mysteries of salvation in Scripture, joined together with the familiar and comforting carols of the season. It has proven especially successful in its ability to attract those who may not otherwise regularly attend Anglican services, and is thus an excellent service to invite friends and family to as an easy introduction to Anglican worship.

This year, we will offer Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 17th, at 4:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you!



Note: the service of Lessons & Carols will be followed by a supper in the Parish Hall. The cost of the supper is a \$10 donation per person. Please let us know if you plan to attend, and how many by email to:

fathergeorge@allsaintsaiken.org

Advent Services

Lessons & Carols

Sunday the 17th — 4:00 pm

Supper follows

Advent 4

Sunday the 24th

Low Mass — 10:30 am

Christmas Season

Christmas Eve Services

Early Service — 5:00 pm

Midnight Mass — 11:15 pm

Christmas Day Service

[No Music]

Low Mass — 10:30 am

Christmas Week Services

Tuesday, 26th — *St. Stephen* — 5:30 pm

Wednesday, 27th — *St. John* — 5:30 pm

Thursday, 28th — *Holy Innocents* — 5:30 pm

Sunday, 31st — *Christmas 1* — 8:30 am & 10:30 am

New Years Day Service

Tuesday (1st) — *Circumcision of Christ* — 5:30 pm

Carl Bottomley continued....

pew at one of our "homes" here in town, the volunteers who offer their time, and friendship, all of this with a deep abiding love. And, above all of this is the gift our Lord gave to each of us. Our best friend, our backstop, our Christmas, his son, Jesus Christ. And last and the very least of all of this, the

guy in the Red Suit, Santa. Have a wonderful, safe, and blessed Christmas, and remember our Father's gift to each of us and don't be confused by his ultimate gift of "outreach".

Jesus is the reason for the Season.

God bless.
Carl



Nature

As Seen through the Lens

by Forrest Roberts

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Location: *North Pole*

This appeared in the Dec 2018 issue of the All Saints' Herald with just one image.

Many have joined the Parish since then, so I decided to do again with more images.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus is a phrase from an editorial called *Is There A Santa Claus?*

The editorial appeared in the September 21, 1897 edition of The (New York) Sun and has since then become part of popular Christmas folklore in the United States.

What the Sun did not say is how far you have to go to visit him at 90 degrees north.

I also think the Sun did not expect him to be thin nor to be Jewish.

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.



The North Pole was in the itinerary of a trip to Svalbard (Norwegian, 78 degrees North) to photograph Polar Bears.

Image at the bottom is the nuclear Russian Ice Breaker, Yamal, which explains why the letters on side of ship appear reversed. The Yamal was in a Tom Clancy novel I read shortly before signing up for the trip, which did increase my interest in the ship and the trip.



Image just above is a passenger jumping from the Yamal for a very quick swim, to be pulled out by the crew. A line is tied around you, and the ship's doctor is standing by with the crew. Carol Sue & I decided to stay warm and dry.

Carol Sue & I wish you a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.



Do Animals Go to Heaven When They Die?

By Fr. Alexander

From time-to-time, the question comes up: what happens to our pets when they die. Do they go to heaven? Will we see them again?

With fondness, I remember that my predecessor, **Fr. Garrett Clanton**, firmly believed that dogs do go to heaven. He was confident that when he and his dog, **Deacon**, died, they would be reunited in heaven.

This is an interesting topic, and I'm sure there must be some discussion among clergy on this, as well. But, the answer is, simply, we really don't know. It's beyond our knowing.

However, what we do know is that God loves all creatures, not just human beings (who must be the hardest to love!), and that his desire is that all of his Creation be saved. Scripture tells us that God is aware of and cares for each creature, whether the birds of the air or the fish in the sea. For example, this passage from **St. Luke, 12: 6**:

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

Having laid to rest several beloved pets, who were truly members of the family, I have faith that they are not buried and forgotten, but have been received into their own special place in eternity, and that we may, through the mercy of God, see them again. I am

not alone in this belief. Others, writers such as **C.S. Lewis**, even some theologians, share this belief that animals are not forgotten by God, especially those who are beloved members of our family. And, **Pope Paul VI** is reported to have said to a young boy who had just lost his dog: *One day, we will see our animals again in the eternity of Christ. Paradise is open to all of God's creatures.* That is such a wonderful statement.

I would like to share with you a prayer I have written for when a pet dies:

HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast created the earth and all that therein is: we humbly acknowledge that every living thing is thine and returns to thee. Knowing that the mystery of life is in thy hands, and that thou didst command humankind to be the caretakers of all living things on earth, we give thee thanks for the life of *N.*, and now commit *him/her* into thy loving hands. Though, in sorrow, we return *him/her* to thee, yet we are joyful for *his/her* life with us and thankful for *his/her* love freely and unconditionally given to us. We offer our thankfulness for the special honour and privilege of having *N.* in our care, as we now return this thy beautiful creature to thee that *he/she* may be received into the portion of thy heavenly kingdom which thou reservest for all thy creatures. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Note

We are all concerned when our pet becomes ill or is hurt, and it is very much apparent to me through observation that they have feelings, just as we do, though they do not have the same understanding; so here is a little prayer you may use:

Prayer when a Pet is Ill or Hurt

HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast created the earth and all that therein is, and hast put all creatures under our care and protection: we humbly beseech thee to watch over _____ for which we are committed to care and love; and, of thy goodness, restore *him/her* to bodily health that *he/she* may continue to fill our lives with the joy of their presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Many of us have had animals in our care, especially our own beloved pets. The beauty and wonder of them is their love and loyalty, which often far exceeds that of many of our human associates. Their love is unconditional, a gift to us for caring for them. That we may attribute to our pets, especially dogs, a sense of love, and to maintain that they do have feelings is perhaps controversial. But anyone who has had the companionship of an animal can see in their eyes and mannerisms an expression of feelings, though not within their realm of understanding. Still, to me, it is more than possible that they do feel hurt, do have af-

fection for people, do feel what we call separation anxiety, pining, and loneliness, and do bring joy to those who care for them.

Perhaps, I am overly sensitive to animals but so was my mentor, Fr. Clanton!

As so many of us have our own beloved furry companions, Betty and I are also blessed to have our Lillie, who is very dear to us.

Thus, we have a God-directed responsibility for the welfare of all animals, all **God's Creation**. As the pinnacle of his **Creation**, as reasoning creatures made in the **Image of God**, we have an awesome responsibility in this earthly realm.



Tucker, our "church dog" seems to add the punctuation with his attentiveness at the reading of the Gospel, recently.



Holiday Cheer!

Eggnog

According to my mom

[Reprinted as an Annual Tradition]

By Fr. Alexander

Holidays are meant to be celebrated in style, and there was no one in the family who could accomplish that better than my mother.

Aside from her daily dose of Jack n' Ginger, my mother loved a good wine, and, at Christmas, she presided over the best Eggnog ever. At least we all thought so!

The word here is *presided*. I was the *presidee*.

Mom had the recipe, and I was the executor thereof.

It became a tradition when I reached the age of reason, about 55 or so, that I would make the Eggnog but only in the old fashioned way: completely by hand, no electric mixers, etc.

With guests watching, I became the center of attention but only until the Eggnog was done; then I faded into the background as the Nog took center stage.

For many years, it was the task of my Aunt Gladys to be the taster. She was quite the lady.

That worked well, to a point. When Aunt Gladys tasted, we would ask, does it need more bourbon or rum? She would always reply, "Just a tetch

more." We could have put a whole quart in, and she still would have said, "Just a tetch more."

After Aunt Gladys entered the larger life, mom took over as taster, and things did settle down a little — we went through fewer of those "Just a tetch more."

So, without further ado, here is mom's recipe for Eggnog:

Eggnog

Ingredients:

12 Egg Yolks

12 Egg Whites

2 pts. Heavy Cream

2 qts. Half n' Half

2 cups Sugar

1 cup Bourbon

1 cup Rum

Fresh Grated Nutmeg

Plus, 2 more Tbs. Sugar

Whisk egg yolks with sugar and bourbon.

Beat the cream until stiff (preferably with a whisk), adding 1 Tbs. sugar.

Beat egg whites until stiff (preferably with a whisk), adding 1 Tbs. sugar.

Add half n' half to the egg mixture, and stir well. Add the rum. Fold in the cream and egg whites.

Next, taste. Then add a "tetch more" bourbon and rum.

Top with grated nutmeg.

(Continued on bottom of next page.)

Saint of the Month

Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr (c. 1118-1170)

Saint Thomas Becket was born on the Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle (Dec. 21st) in Cheapside, London. His parents were of minor noble Norman families. He began to receive education in a monastic setting at the age of ten, and, in his twenties, he acquired a position serving Theobald of Bec, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1154, he was named the Archdeacon of Canterbury; then he was made Lord Chancellor to Henry II in 1155; then elected Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162.

Becket resigned his position as Lord Chancellor upon his consecration as Archbishop. This created a rift between the king and the archbishop, which was worsened in the following years by the reforms enacted by Becket. During the reign of Henry II, the power of the Church had been usurped by the crown. He attempted to control the Church through his influence over the bishops, and proposed the *Constitutions of Clarendon* to undermine Becket.

There are many stories to tell about mom's Eggnog but rest assured that some are best kept secret, for now.

I will relate that my Aunt Alta Marie, the strict Mormon who shunned caffeine and alcohol — at least publicly — was usually first in line for the Eggnog. She readily approved of the finished product, knowing that the eggs would pose no problem because they had been properly "cooked" by the al-

cohol. Thus, justifying her indulgence. I would like to say that she only consumed one small serving as a sample but that would be stretching the truth. Now, you may think that this recipe could serve quite a number of people. Think again.

For his refusal to approve these *Constitutions*, Becket was exiled. Through the diplomacy of Rome, Becket returned to England, but his status was weakened.

When Becket began to excommunicate his opponents, it is said that the aging king muttered, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" This was interpreted by four knights to be a death order, and so Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral on December 29th, 1170.

The result of his murder led to the power of the king being diminished in favor of the Church. Becket was canonized less than three years after his death. He is venerated on the date of his death in the Anglican and Roman traditions.



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From the Clerical Kitchen to you:

***A Joyous Celebration
of the Nativity of our Lord***

Parish Monthly Calendar

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<i>1</i> St. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Confessor	<i>2</i> St. Peter Chrysologus, Bp., Confessor, Doctor
<i>3 Advent 1</i> Comm. St. Francis Xavier MP & HC 8:30 HC 10:30	<i>4</i> St. Clement of Alexandria, Confessor & Doctor	<i>5</i> Feria	<i>6</i> St. Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor HC at 5:30 pm	<i>7</i> St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, Doctor	<i>8</i> Conception of BVM HC at 5:30 pm	<i>9</i> Of the Octave of Conception BVM
<i>10 Advent 2</i> Comm. Octave Concept. MP & HC 8:30 HC 10:30 Healing Service 12:00	<i>11</i> Of the Octave of Conception BVM	<i>12</i> Of the Octave of Conception BVM Vestry meets 5:15	<i>13</i> St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr EP at 5:30 pm	<i>14</i> Of the Octave of Conception BVM	<i>15</i> Octave of Conception BVM	<i>16</i> Feria
<i>17 Advent 3</i> MP & HC 8:30 HC 10:30 Lessons & Carols 4:00 Supper Follows	<i>18</i> Feria	<i>19</i> Feria ACW Lunch 11:30 Men meet at 6:00	<i>20</i> Ember Wednesday HC at 5:30 pm	<i>21</i> St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr HC at 5:30 pm	<i>22</i> Ember Friday	<i>23</i> Ember Saturday
<i>24 Advent 4</i> HC (Low Mass) 10:30 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Early Service 5:00 pm Midnight Mass 11:15	<i>25</i> Nativity of our Lord HC at 10:30 am (Low Mass)	<i>26</i> St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr HC at 5:30 pm	<i>27</i> St. John, Apostle HC at 5:30 pm	<i>28</i> Holy Innocents HC at 5:30 pm	<i>29</i> St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr	<i>30</i> Of the Octave of the Nativity
<i>31</i> Comm. St. Sylvester MP & HC 8:30 HC 10:30						