

All Saints' Herald

January
2023

Newsletter of
All Saints Anglican Parish
Aiken, South Carolina

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All Saints' Herald

January

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From My Notebook....



Spending Christmas at Home in God's House

Fr. Alexander

Christmas is such a joyous time of the year, regardless of where we are and, regardless of weather or other distractions. Indeed, there is always a special aura that surrounds us and the world at Christmas time.

The church looked spectacular, thanks to the efforts of a hearty crew on the Friday before *Christmas Eve*, who braved the cold and wind to make our lovely little church even lovelier!

The weather must have played a big part, as attendance was much less than expected but those attending *Christmas Eve* services seemed to glow.

Not everything went perfectly but, most definitely, for those present, it was *just* perfect, despite the church being less than warm, temperature-wise!

For us — Betty and me — this year was particularly hectic; we just couldn't get ourselves organized with so much going on. Fortunately, *Christmastide* lasts longer for us *Anglicans* than for *secular folk*, and, thankfully, our daughter, Julia, visiting from Denver, took care of putting up decorations in time for *Christmas*. Still, we are far behind and grateful that it's not

too late to get those Christmas Cards in the mail.

I must confess that the storage boxes for the decorations never got put away — mostly out-of-sight, but not put away. We are not the most organized but, somehow, manage to get things done — eventually!

New Year's Eve was spent at home, talking on the phone with children spread across the country as we prepared a special dinner. Then we struggled to stay awake until the stroke of midnight, when we raised our glasses to toast the new year. Thanks to Forrest & Carol Sue Roberts, the glasses were filled with a wonderful champagne.

We reminisce about *Christmases* past, especially as children, and the traditions of our families that we have blended together to be our traditions.

I remember that as a child, the *Christmas Tree* never went up until *Christmas Eve*, and I didn't see it until Christmas morning. Later, that changed and the *Christmas Tree* went up a few days before *Christmas Eve*. Then, finally, I became of suitable age to be involved in decorating the *Tree*.

In those early years, living in Graniteville (actually we called our area Madison), we were *Baptists*, not yet having seen the light, so there is little memory of attending *Christmas* services. More likely than not, I was left at home, rather than being subjected to a long service when my energy level was at such a *Christmas* peak!

Services & Meetings

Wednesday the 4th....

Octave of Holy Innocents: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Friday the 6th....

The Epiphany: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 10th....

Vestry meets in Parish Hall at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday the 11th....

Of the Octave of Epiphany: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. **Parish Night Out** follows at 6:30 at *Sukiya Japanese Steak House*.

Tuesday the 17th....

ACW Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the *Village Cafe*.

Tuesday the 17th....

Men of All Saints in Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. for a *Chili Cookoff*.

Wednesday the 18th....

St. Prisca, Virgin & Martyr: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 25th....

Conversion of St. Paul: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.



Once we converted to the *Episcopal Church*, in the early 1950s, things changed in many ways. For me, it was clearly the light coming on, and I became more and more involved in the life of the **Church**.

Truly, church was the place to be at *Christmas* — not only at *Christmas* or other major festivals during the year, it was just simply the place to be.



Of course, today, as a priest, for me, church **is** the place to be! Most importantly, Betty and I share that feeling that the Church and All Saints' is indeed our **Home**, and All Saints' is our **Family**.

But, really and truly, it is the place where we all should be — and not just on

Christmas, or *Easter*, or when the *bishop* visits.

Yes, we have our individual homes; but, as a **Family in Christ**, church is our **Family Home**.

Yes. It is **God's House** but, as his **Adopted Children in Christ**, it is where we are at **home** in the here and now.

At **home**, in **God's**

House. What better place to be on *Christmas*, or *New Year's Day*, or anytime!

In this new year, let us each resolve to be at **home** with our **Brothers and Sisters in Christ**, as often as possible — and not just *home for the holidays*!

Announcements

Scoured from the Weekly Bulletin

Parish Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch

The **Parish Annual Meeting** will be on **Sunday the 15th** following the 10:30 service. This is when the budget is presented for approval, and members to the Vestry are elected.

During the **Meeting**, there will be reports from the Rector, as well as from the Senior and Junior Wardens on the State of the Parish.

It is important that all Parishioners attend. As usual, there will be a **Potluck Lunch** with the meeting. Please coordinate with **Lena Whittaker** if you are planning to bring something.

What is a Member-in-Good-Standing?

A *Member-in-Good-Standing* of the Parish is simply one who has been confirmed and received into the **ACC**. By **Canon Law**, these are the only ones with a vote in Parish meetings; however, it may be noted that any member of the Parish has a *voice* in these meetings.

If you are not sure that you are in the category of good-standing, contact Fr. Alexander — **but note** that you do have a *voice*, and hearing from you during a Parish meeting is essential as important issues are brought up and discussed.

Vestry Meeting for January

The **Vestry** will meet on **January 10th** at 5:15 pm in the Parish Hall. Vestry Meetings are open to any member of the Parish.

Parish Night Out the 11th

Japanese Steak House in the Publix Shopping Center is the location for **Parish Night Out** on Wednesday the 11th at 6:30 pm following the 5:30 service.

ACW January Lunch

The **ACW Luncheon** will be on **January 17th** at 11:30 am at the Village Cafe. Please let Betty Alexander know if you have a suggestion and also if you plan to attend.

Men of All Saints' Meeting

The **Men of All Saints' (MOAS)** will also meet on the **17th**. A Chili Cookoff has been suggested for the dinner, which will be in Parish Hall at 6:00 pm. If everyone is interested in the idea of a Chili Cookoff, we'll plan on that —but do let Fr. Alexander know.

And if that is the plan, and you would like to be one of the contestants, please let Fr. Alexander know that as soon as possible.

Search for an Assistant Continues

The search for a deacon or priest to assist the rector continues, and the Vestry plans to broaden the search to include all Jurisdictions with which the ACC is in communion.

Feast of The Epiphany

Remember, the Feast of The Epiphany is Friday, January 6th. This is an important Festival of the Church, and we hope everyone will plan to attend our 5:30 p.m. Eucharist (Holy Communion). And we do hope to have music for the service.

Parishioner attends Ceremony at Buckingham Palace

Just in case you were wondering where **Gail King** was on this past December 15th — well, Gail was at Buckingham Palace!

Gail had the distinct pleasure of being invited to attend the Investiture of her niece, Clare Balding, with the Order of the Empire, one of the highest orders for a British subject.

Clare is a television presenter in the UK, and she and Gail have always remained close.

rector, “Sadly, not our new King made the presentation, rather Princess Ann, but I had to keep pinching myself to be sure I was really there!”



Gail wrote in a recent email to the



ACW News

by Betty Alexander

A larger than anticipated group met for lunch at *The Willcox* in what has become an ACW holiday tradition.

Seated at two tables, a group picture was attempted by our accommodating waiter, and almost all of us fit in the picture (without going to panorama mode). Holiday plans involving family and travel were a conversational topic for all. After completing two charitable projects for the Christmas season, the “**Operation Christmas Child**” shoebox ministry of **Samaritan’s Purse**, as well as providing Christmas gifts for a family identified by **Children’s Place**, all deserved a nice holiday.

Present were: **Carol Sue Roberts**, **Lainey Keller**, **Jean Drake**, Jean’s daughter, **Jenny Culpepper**, **Trina Crockner**, **Susan Thomas**, **Patricia Sharp**, **Betty Alexander**, **Ann Zouck**, **Kirsten Collins**, **Susie Kern**, **Sharon Riordan**, **Clare Michelinie**, **Darlene Rabon**, and **Dominique Corbett**. For Kirsten and Jenny, who are teachers, it was a rare treat to be able to attend over a school break.

The next ACW lunch will be at

11:30 AM on Tuesday, January 17 at the *Village Café*. Please let us know if you plan to come, so we can be sure to have enough seating.



Decorating the Church

A small but hearty group set about decorating the church for Christmas the day before *Christmas Eve*. It seemed a monumental task but all went well, and, by working together, the results were quite beautiful.

Susan Thomas set up the *Creche*, as well as helping **Betty Alexander** with the window boxes and sconces. **Carol Sue Roberts** worked on the *Advent Wreath*, while **Lainey Keller** sorted the various greenery. **Sharon Riordan** used her *super vac* to do the cleanup.

We opted not to put a lot of greenery on the Altar this year for safety concerns. A photo of the decorated church is on page 3.



Men of All Saints' News

The **Men of All Saints' (MOAS)** met on December 20th in grand style in a pre-Christmas celebration hosted by **Dr. Anthony Harris**.

Okay, it's **Tony**, and the focus of the menu was good fellowship and steak!



Of course, the steak was beautifully grilled by our Grillmeister, **Bob Sukovich**, who also made a huge tossed salad.



Fr. Alexander was in charge of the baked potatoes and dessert. Oh, yes, we did have a green vegetable — lots of green beans.



The turnout was the largest of our MOAS dinners. We had 20, including two visitors from St. Luke's.



Photos by Forrest Roberts



Those enjoying the great evening hosted, as we have mentioned, by **Tony Harris** included: **Jerry Burns, Linzee Whittaker, Don Michelinie, Bruce Drake, Kevin**



Riordan, Larry Byers, Ken Connor, Wallace Rabon, David Twigg, Bob Story, Chris Roberts, Forrest Roberts, Jordan Hewett, Lance Davis, Carl Bottomley, Jeff Kern, Bob Sukovich, and Fr. Alexander.



Next meeting is on the 17th with a **Chili Cookoff**. If you would like to participate in the **Cookoff**, let Fr. Alexander know.



Parish Night Out

A Meager Turnout But an Enjoyable Evening

Perhaps, there were too many other activities going on at the time, competing with **Parish Night Out (PNO)**, for whatever reason, the turnout was not what we were expecting.

Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable evening at **Tailgate in the Alley** with excellent service and good food. Naturally, there was good drink to accompany the menu items, which included specials that were “down home” style, such a meatloaf that tasted just like what you would expect in

good Southern Cooking. The menu was quite varied and interesting.

There were just five of us for **PNO**, **Tony & Sandy Harris**, **Chris Roberts**, and **Fr. George & Betty Alexander**. Needless-to-say, we enjoyed the food, which became one of the subjects of conversation.

Next **PNO** will be on the 11th at 6:30 for hibachi at **Sukiya Japanese Steak House** in the Publix Shopping Center.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- 1 Pixie Keating
- 5 Sharon Padgett
- 11 Lena Whittaker
- 14 Pat Franca
- 30 Patricia Sharp
- 31 Lynwood Rabon

January Anniversaries

- 10 Wallace & Darlene Rabon
- 14 Larry & Pat Byers
- 23 David & Connie Beveridge
- 24 Fr. George & Betty
- 25 Jack & Tamara Cannon

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, refocus our attention on spiritual reality, such as the following, which reminds us of the significance of what we have just celebrated with the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour:

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.

(Continued on page 15.)

Parish Inaugurates Service of Lessons & Carols

A joint effort with our sister Parish, St. Luke's in Augusta



All Saints' and St. Luke's joined together for the first celebration of a *Service of Lessons & Carols* to be held at All Saints'.

The church was nearly filled with members of both Parishes, who not only enjoyed a beautiful service but also, afterward, joined together for a fabulous **Potluck Supper**.

Leading the service in singing were members of **St. Luke's Choir**, accompanied by their organist, **Lance Davis**, who "pulled all the stops"!

Lectors from both Parishes read the Lessons, following the traditional format first established in 1878 in Truro Cathedral, Truro, England.



Interestingly, the service came about as a way to keep the men out of the pubs during Christmas, which had become quite a problem. That first service was attended by 400 people.

The event was such a success that it was immediately decided that this should be added to our Parish Calendar as a yearly celebration in preparation for Christmas.

A big *Thank You* to **Chris Roberts** for coordinating with **Lance Davis** in bringing about this event at All Saints', and helping us establish a new Christmas tradition.

We look forward to next year which should be bigger and better!



Photos
by
Forrest Roberts



Origin of the service of Lessons & Carols

The original concept of Lessons *and* Carols came from composer and organist John Stainer, who, in 1878, introduced carols into the service of Choral Evensong during Christmas at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

This concept of singing carols during Christmas spread to other cathedrals and towns. Then, two years later, the



The service soon spread across England and across the *big pond* to the U.S.

From the original service, little has changed, and what we hope to be doing each year has its origins in our Mother Church which began in 1878 and became official in 1880!



Right Rev. Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro, conducted the first formal service of *Nine Lessons and Carols*. That was the first official service of *Lessons and Carols*. In 1883, Bp. Benson was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury.



Standing Watch for Santa!



Gail King's best friend is ready for visitors, especially the man in the red suit.

In the Beginning continued from page 11....

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 muddled 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.

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New Year Considerations from the Rector Looking ahead to the Opportunities That await our Parish in 2023

We are entering into a new year with the promise of good things to come — that is generally the expectation when the ball drops in New York City at midnight, and the revelers cheerfully welcome the new year with gusto. But, for Christians who follow the **Church Calendar**, we are well into a new **Christian Year**, as we follow a cycle born out of a **Tradition** begun centuries ago.

So, as we begin the new year, there are several things to consider. First, on the agenda is our **Annual Parish Meeting**, coming up on the 15th; second, **Parish Growth**; third, **Community Awareness**; fourth, **Church Attendance**; and fifth, **Orthodoxy** in an increasingly hostile environment.

Annual Parish Meeting

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is not just a requirement under the By-Laws and Canons. It is an important function in the fiscal and physical operation of the Parish, touching also on the spiritual side. And, more to the point, it is the coming together of the membership in partnership with the Vestry and the Clergy to conduct the business of the Church.

First, the Treasurer reports on the fiscal status of the Parish and presents a budget proposal for the new year. The Parish membership considers what is presented and proposed, discusses it as necessary, and acts upon it by accepting the reports and the proposed budget, or they take action to amend the budget presented.

Fortunately, All Saint's operates on a balanced budget, has no debts, and has significant assets. All of this may be attributed to a fiscally conservative and responsible Vestry, and the generosity of our Parishioners.

Of course, our physical operation has needs that require attention and planning, such as the Fairfield House, which, partly due to age, is in need of repairs. Naturally, in the course of the year, there will be other projects for consideration to enhance our facilities.

Parish Growth

There is one area of the Parish that requires the involvement of everyone. That is **Parish Growth**. Yes, our spiritual growth is at the forefront but, at the same time, we must consider our growth in numbers.

Needless-to-say, we are not getting any younger, and we need an influx of younger members to maintain the Parish for the future.

What this means is that each one of us should be working toward increasing our numbers, passively by supporting the Vestry in their efforts, and actively by helping to beat the bushes.

Parish Growth is not just a one-person job or something relegated to a committee.

Consider, if each of us brought in a new person — we could effectively double our congregation in no time.

And this leads to the next topic:

Community Awareness

What is one of the best-kept secrets in our community? **All Saints' Anglican Church** — our Parish!

Why should it be a secret? We need to let the world know that we are here! Here, on Fairfield Street.

Let the world know that **Orthodox Christianity** is alive and well. The new term being thrown around is **Orthodox Protestantism**. We've got that, and more!

The **Vestry** is taking up the challenge of increasing awareness in the community. Parish input is welcome and vital in the effort. What are the possibilities for making our Parish visible? Numerous, I would say. It doesn't hurt for us to toot our own horn, or, in church language, "ring our own bell".

Guidance and insight from members of the Parish is sought by the Vestry. Get involved. Let's not hide our light under a bushel. Let's put our resources to work to let our light shine for all to see.

Church Attendance

While personal spiritual growth is our goal as Christians, the best aid to meeting that goal is the **Church**. It is within the **Body of Christ** that our spiritual needs are most readily met. That means, we thrive on corporate worship. The church is where we are fed by the **Sacraments** — indeed, fed by the **Body and Blood of Christ**. This is our spiritual nourishment.

Our coming together as a body strengthens us in our Faith, and strengthens our individual Parish.

Our Parish revolves around **God's House**. He is always present, waiting for us. We may very well say that our little church is our **Spiritual Home**. It is **God's House** but he has made it our **Home**.

(Continued on next page.)

New Year Considerations continued from the previous page.....

There are many opportunities to be present in our *Spiritual Home*, Sundays, in particular, as well as Wednesdays, many of the Feasts and Festivals of the Church, and on special Saints' days. There is no lack of opportunity, and it should be part of our individual *Christian Discipline* to worship God in the **Church**, his **House**, our *Spiritual Home*.

Let us not forget that our strength as Christians comes through our corporate worship and at the Altar where we are joined together with all the Saints both in this present world and the world to come.

Orthodoxy

We mentioned the term *Orthodox Protestantism* in talking about *Community Awareness*. The term refers more specifically to the Protestant denominations who are remaining steadfast in the Faith, confronting the changes within society and those forces that are intent on tearing down the **Church** as a moral standard.

For us Anglicans, *Orthodoxy* is the essence of our Faith — perhaps best defined in the *Athanasian Creed* — which has maintained Christianity for two millennia. The term is not to be confused with the *Eastern Orthodox Church*, though they have been a bastion of *Orthodox Faith*, and include the Greek, Russian, and several other communions.

We are *Orthodox* because we adhere to the definitions of Faith that resulted from the first seven *Ecumenical Councils*, reflected in the three major Creeds: *Apostles Creed*, *Nicene Creed*, and *Athanasian Creed*.

Perhaps, it might be more easily understood if we say *Right Belief*, for that is what *Orthodoxy* stands for, but not just *Right Belief*; it is also *Right Worship* or *Right Practice*. It is the *Faith* as once delivered by our *Lord* to the *Apostles*, affirmed by the *Creeds*, and practiced in the *Apostolic Tradition*.

From our Anglican perspective, our form of worship contained in the *1928 Book of Common Prayer* remains true to the ancient worship of the **Church**, retaining all the elements, and permitting the fullest form of worship that *Tradition* has carried over and practiced since the early days of Christianity.

More explicitly, we see through *Orthodoxy* the sacrificial worship of the *Old Covenant*, transformed through the *Redemptive Act of Jesus Christ* into the living sacrificial worship of the *New Covenant*, where we can offer ourselves, our lives, our souls, our very being to God as never before could have been done.

Thus, as we embark on this new year, 2023, in consideration of the past and in looking forward to the potential for both ourselves and our Parish, let us examine our spiritual lives and resolve to do better in reconciling our lives in service to our Parish and God.

Liturgically Speaking *What is the Church?*

By Fr. Alexander

One lingering question is: what is the Church? The answer has been provided in volumes but here I have tried to give a short, basic overview, by no means definitive.

As defined, the Church is a society, visible and organic, whose members are known and are admitted by an outward rite, bound by written rules, and subject to known officers. It is not invisible, that is, composed of the elect who are known only to God. It is, as St. Paul and St. John most certainly have attested, the Body of Christ to which one is admitted by baptism.

The Church was formed by God, to which and through which He can reveal Himself.

By this definition, we can say the Church is older than Christianity, for the Jews of the Old Testament were a society through and to which God revealed Himself. They were “Chosen People” that God had selected to prepare for His coming in Christ.

This preparation was to take place over time, and God gave them the Law and a moral code designed to make the Jews a holy people, to differentiate them from other peoples, and to make them ready to receive His final revelation of Himself through Christ.

The Jewish Church had its official teaching; its rites, ceremonies, and forms of worship; and a clearly defined membership.

It also had its prophets to remind them of their requirements under the Law and to call them to repentance and sincere devotion of God. But, the Jews usurped the Law. They elaborated ritual at the expense of the moral law, demanding God's favor and support for their performance of the ceremonial law.

It was into this Church that Jesus Christ came.

He came to fulfill the Law, the Law of Moses. In doing so, Jesus kept the Law. Yet, it was Christ's Will that the Gentile world be given access to God through the Church, and that could not be done under its existing framework

Thus, Jesus established His Church as a means whereby He could continue His work on earth and extend salvation through the Gospel to all the world. He provided the Church with its own organization and its own officials, the Apostles. He chose His Apostles and gave them special training, committing to them His Gospel and the Sacraments of the Church, making them its official guardians and teachers.

The Apostles were the commissioned leaders of the Church: they ran its affairs and authorized its successors. They were the official agents of Christ and, as His agents, they stood in His stead, just, as in today's world, the holder of a “power of attorney” acts as the agent of the person named.

(Continued on page 20.)

Altar Guild Workday

Members of the Altar Guild set about spiffing up the church in preparation for Christmas.



Amazing how much was accomplished in a relatively short time but brass and silver were polished, windows dusted, and the Advent Wreath was refreshed.



Thanks to **Jean Drake, Carol Sue Roberts, Ann Zouck, Connie Bev-**



What is the Church continued from page 19...

The teaching of Jesus was entirely oral and committed to His Apostles and through them to the Church.

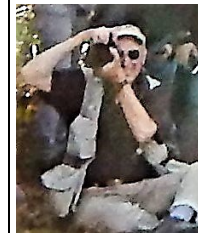
That oral teaching in turn was written down by the Apostles and other members of the Church to form the books that were eventually canonized, or endorsed, by the Church. This endorsement meant that those books reflected faithfully the

eridge, and Betty Alexander for their dedication and service.



Apostles' teaching. As Bonnell Spenser has written: "...the Church did not derive its teaching from the Bible. It recorded its teaching in the Bible."

The Bible thus is the record of all essentials of the Church's teaching, and nothing is to be declared as necessary to the religion of the Church, to salvation, that can not be proven by Holy Scripture.



Nature

As Seen through the Lens

by Forrest Roberts

Thomson's Gazelle

Location: *Tanzania & Kenya*

There are 12 species of gazelles in Africa but, unfortunately, half of them are endangered.

The Thomson's is our favorite, along with the Grant's, which is a little larger. The black stripe is a quick way to tell them apart. The male will weigh from 45 to 75 pounds, with the females a little less. They are agile and fast, 50-55 mph, which is their defense.

They are the fourth-fastest land animal. Number 3 is the Springbok, number 2 is the Pronghorn, and the Cheetah is clearly the fastest. Cheetahs are one of their biggest predators, and, if the cheetah can get close before they attack, they can run at almost 70 mph for 200-250 yards. The Thomson's can change direction much quicker, and that can usually save them.

We usually see them in the open where there is good visibil-

ity and they are always looking around. In Kenya and Tanzania, they are usually called Tommy or Tommies.

[Note: this is a monthly series of nature photography by Forrest Roberts, who, with Carol Sue, travels extensively, both of them photographing the wonders of Nature.]





From the Clerical Kitchen....

Whole Roasted Chicken

By Fr. Alexander

As if a chicken breast is not enough, or a leg, thigh, or wing — how about a whole chicken, not cut up and fried, but a whole chicken, roasted.

Well, nothing unusual about that, and we each have our own way of doing it.

Needless-to-say, we, in the *Clerical Kitchen*, have our own way too.

Of course, we are pretty much accustomed to roast turkey, roast duck, and roast roasts but how often do we roast a chicken?

For instance, if you go to most any restaurant, do you ever see roast chicken on the menu? Chicken prepared every imaginable way but very seldom roasted in the oven.

Now, as you might expect, the *Clerical Kitchen* can't resist doing something that is being pretty much overlooked these days, just to prove, well, that it should be done — more often.

So, here is our take on a **Whole Roasted Chicken**:

- 1 Whole Chicken
- 4 cloves Garlic cut in half
- 1 stalk Celery cut in 3 in. pieces
- 1 Carrot cut in 3 in. pieces
- 1 Onion, quartered
- 1 tbs Italian Herbs
- 1/2 stick Butter

Salt & pepper the chicken all around, and sprinkle with 2 tsp Italian Herbs. Salt & pepper the cavity, and sprinkle with 1 tsp Italian Herbs. Stuff with 1/2 stick butter, celery, onion, carrot, and garlic.

Melt remaining butter to use for initial basting.

Heat over to 450 degrees. Place chicken in roasting pan with breast side down, uncovered for 20 min. Baste, reduce oven to 360 degrees, and return chicken to oven for another 30 minutes, basting at least every 15 min., using juices from the chicken once the butter is used up.

Next, turn the chicken so the breast is up, cover loosely with foil, and raise the temp to 400 degrees, and cook until done, about 30 more min. Uncover last 15 min. for browning.

Be sure to baste often — at the least every 15 min., first with the melted butter, then with the juices in the pan.

For a whole chicken, we figure that the cooking time is about 15 min/pound at 360 degrees. However, we are using different temperatures, so the total time may vary depending on the weight of the chicken.

To summarize: 20 min. at 450 degrees, breast down, uncovered. Lower temp to 360 degrees and roast for another 30 min.

Turn chicken and cover loosely with foil, raise temp to 400 degrees, and return to oven for about 30 more minutes, uncovering the last 15 minutes to allow for browning.

Sounds crazy with the different temperatures but it does work, and, along with frequent basting, the chicken should be moist.

A good test for doneness is when you can wiggle the leg.

We have a whole chicken in the freezer just waiting for the right occasion, and that could be soon!

As ovens vary, along with other factors, the cooking times may not be exact, so keep a good eye on that bird.

Happy New Year & Bon Appetit

Saint of the Month St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (69 - 156)

Polycarp embraced Christianity about the year 80, becoming a disciple of St. John.

He was consecrated bishop by **St. John** about the year 96, just before John was banished to Patmos, and given the **See of Smyrna**, over which he presided until his martyrdom in 155 or 156.

It is thought that **Polycarp** is the **Angel**, or **Bishop of Smyrna**, who was commended above all bishops by **Christ** in the **Book of Revelation**, being the only one without a reproach of all the bishops of Asia.

Polycarp formed many disciples, among them, **St. Irenaeus** and **Papias**. He is said to have kissed the chains of **St. Ignatius** as he passed through Smyrna on the way to martyrdom in Rome, and who recommended to Polycarp the care of the Church of Antioch.

He wrote a letter to the **Philippians** which **St. Irenaeus**, **St. Jerome**, **Eusebius**, and others highly recommended, and which was later read by St. Jerome in the churches of Asia.

Polycarp even paid a visit to Rome, and, at the invitation of the pope, **St. Anicetus**, who wished to honor Polycarp, celebrated the Eucharist in the pope's own church.

In 155 or 156, Polycarp suffered martyrdom, being burned at the stake. It was a time when Christians were being persecuted for not conforming to the pagan worship of the times.

Three days before his martyrdom, Polycarp, in a vision saw his pillow on fire, from which he understood that he should be burned alive.

Betrayed and taken into custody, Polycarp

would not relent, standing up to the proconsul until his sentence was pronounced.

Then, when finally taken to the pyre, he said to the executioners who were to nail him to the stake:

Suffer me to be as I am. He who gives me grace to undergo this fire will enable me to stand still without that precaution.

They consented, and, as they tied his hands behind his back, he made his final prayer:

O Almighty Lord God, Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of thee, God of angels, powers, and every creature, and of all the race of the just that live in thy presence, I bless thee for having been pleased in thy goodness to bring me to this hour, that I may receive a portion in the number of thy martyrs, and partake of the chalice of thy Christ, for the resurrection to eternal life, in the incorruptibility of the holy Spirit. Amongst whom grant me to be received this day as a pleasing sacrifice, such an one as thou thyself hast prepared, that so thou mayest accomplish what thou, O true and faithful God, hast foreshown. Wherefore, for all things I praise, bless, and glorify thee, through the eternal high priest Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, with whom, to Thee and the Holy Ghost, be glory now and for ever. Amen.

With that, the pyre was lit by torches, and as the flames leapt up, they formed an arch around him. Finally, he was pierced by a spear, and his body burned.

Polycarp was well loved and venerated, both in life and death, and remains one of the honored **Apostolic Fathers** of the Church, and the detailed accounts of his martyrdom are fascinating and inspiring.

Parish Monthly Calendar

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat														
<p><i>1</i> Circumcision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Octave of St. Stephen, M.</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Octave of St. John, Ap.</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Octave of Holy Innocents</i> H.C. at 5:30 pm</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vigil of Epiphany</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Epiphany</i> H.C. at 5:30 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Octave of Epiphany</i></p>														
<p><i>8</i> Epiphany 1</p> <p>MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30 Healing Service 12:00</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Octave of Epiphany</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Octave of Epiphany</i> Vestry meets at 5:15 pm</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Octave of Epiphany</i> H.C. at 5:30 pm Parish Night Out 6:30</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Octave of Epiphany</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Octave of Epiphany</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Hilary, BCD</i></p>														
<p><i>15</i> Epiphany 2</p> <p>(Comm. St. Paul, 1st Hermit) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30 Parish Annual Meeting</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bl. William Laud, BM</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Anthony, Abt.</i> ACW Lunch at 11:30 MOAS meet at 6:00 pm</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Prisca, VM</i> H.C. at 5:30 pm</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Feria</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sts. Fabian & Sebastian, Mm</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Agnes, VM</i></p>														
<p><i>22</i> Epiphany 3</p> <p>(Comm. St. Vincent & Anastasius, Mm.) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Feria</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Timothy, BM</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Conversion of St. Paul</i> (Comm. St. Peter, Ap.M.) H.C. at 5:30 pm</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Polycarp, BM</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. John Chrysostom, BCD</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bestowal of Anglican Catholic Episcopate</i></p>														
<p><i>29</i> Epiphany 4</p> <p>(Comm. St. Francis de Sales, BCD) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bl. Charles Stuart, KM</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. John Bosco, C</i></p>			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Ap - Apostle</td> <td>Ev - Evangelist</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abt - Abbot</td> <td>Abs - Abbess</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B - Bishop</td> <td>Bb - Bishops</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C - Confessor</td> <td>Cc - Confessors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D - Doctor of the Church</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>M - Martyr</td> <td>Mm - Martyrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V - Virgin</td> <td>Wid - Widow</td> </tr> </table>		Ap - Apostle	Ev - Evangelist	Abt - Abbot	Abs - Abbess	B - Bishop	Bb - Bishops	C - Confessor	Cc - Confessors	D - Doctor of the Church		M - Martyr	Mm - Martyrs	V - Virgin	Wid - Widow
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