



The Diocese of the South  
Of the Anglican Catholic Church

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Most Rev'd Mark Haverland, Managing Editor  
The Rev'd Fr. Thomas L. Crowder, Content Editor

The  
Anglican  
Catholic  
Church



Saints Fabian & Sebastian, Martyrs  
20 January, A.D. 2016

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## Out of the Ordinary



### Collect for Trinity XII

**ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, etc.**

The beginning of the **address** to God is typical of the Prayer Book: 'Almighty and everlasting God'. So also begin, for example, the collects for Christmas I, Epiphany II and III, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Trinity Sunday, Trinity XIV, the prayer after the gospel in the baptismal rite, and the prayer for the Clergy and People in the daily Offices. To this list of collects which begin with this address one might add the closely similar 'Almighty and everliving God', which begins a number of other Prayer Book collects and prayers. Before God is addressed in relation to the worshipper, he is named with two of his attributes: omnipotence and eternity.

These qualities, which emphasize God's infinitude and his contrast with his creation, make all the more striking the two divine tendencies that are noted in the distinctive second part of the address: 'always more ready to hear than we to pray' and 'wont to give more than either we desire or deserve'. God's condescension to us is itself rooted in what theologians call his impassibility: his unchangeable, unalterable, unmoving, eternal perfection. God does not become or change but absolutely is. Yet it is God's eternal, unchanging, unalterable nature already to encompass what we need or ask according to his will. From our point of view God is

‘ready to hear’, in fact ‘more ready to hear than we do pray’. From God’s side, our prayers are already known, our hearts are already open, and our true good is already included in his eternal, unchanging, providential will.

God’s generosity is, astonishingly, said to be ‘more than either we desire or deserve’. Christians, at least in moments of humility, must know that God’s generosity is greater than what we *deserve*. But that it should be more than we *desire* is unexpected. What Ecclesiastes calls the ‘wandering of desire’, after all, is infinite. The human heart seems always to want more: it is restless and will remain so unless it can obtain satisfaction in an infinite object. How then can God be wont to give more than we desire in our insatiableness? The answer lies in God’s perfect knowledge. God knows what makes for our true and eternal good, what will make us happy as we cannot make ourselves happy and as no finite object can make us happy. Anything that we desire from the imaginations of our hearts, any finite object in the universe, will be less (and less perfectly) apt than the perfect and perfectly fitted gifts that God wills for us. Our disordered desire is always imperfect, because it desires that which is less than the best and because it seeks to achieve that which is good in a less than perfectly apt manner. God, however, wills both the best end for us and also the best means possible for achieving that end. So God’s gift is better than we desire.

The nature of these best ends intended by God, which are implied in the address of the collect, is spelled out in the petition.

The collect has two alliterative pairs: ‘desire or deserve’ and ‘merits and mediation’. The first, ‘desire or deserve’, is a contrasting double: desire and deserve are two different, distinguishable verbs. What I desire may not only be different from, but might even be the opposite of, what I deserve. The second pair is pleonastic rather than contrasting: ‘merits and mediation’. Christ’s merits are the engine that empowers his mediation between God and man. The two items are theoretically distinguishable but in fact are intimately related as cause and intrinsic effect.

The three other parallel terms or pleonastic phrases in the collect are not alliterative but have other parallel qualities. First, ‘almighty and everlasting’ are both long, Germanic words with initial vowels. Next, ‘ready to hear...and...wont to give’ both have parallel adjectives (‘ready’; ‘wont’) followed by infinitives. Finally, the phrases beginning ‘forgiving us...giving us’ have an initial or head rhyme (‘forgiving us’ / ‘giving us’) and make a theological point: God’s gift to us (‘good things’) comes because of his prior act of forgiveness through his merits and mediation. Grace comes from Christ’s merits and the forgiveness that those merits bring.

This order of divine act leading to human benefit is in fact the request made in the collect’s **petition**. First, the collect asks God to ‘pour down upon us the abundance of [his] mercy’. Secondly, the collect asks for the double result of the divine mercy: ‘forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid’ and ‘giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask’. The divine initiative or grace, given God’s impassibility and unchangeableness, is not a kind of change of mind in God or something elicited by us either directly or indirectly. Rather God’s mercy is there ‘always’: it is God’s nature and property. The results of that grace in us depend on our willingness to accept the gift, but intrinsically those results are forgiveness and other ‘good things’ which become possible for the forgiven Christian.

## From the Province

### A note from Bishop Scarlett.

I have two people in my parish who are allergic to gluten and commune by receiving the Blood of Christ only. I fished around for gluten free wafers and found this article:

<http://news.health.com/2014/10/22/why-the-catholic-church-frowns-upon-gluten-free-communion-wafers/>

Also, we are planning a trip to the Holy Land next May and want to publish it to the larger church in case anyone else would like to join us. The current version of the itinerary can be sent to those who are interested. It has been revised under the watchful eye of Deacon Dennis Mahoney, who has been a couple of times.

Peace,

+Stephen

### The Saint Paul Missionary Society

After the recent Provincial Synod in October, many parishes have been fundraising to support the various projects discussed during the regional reports. The deputy bursar for the Saint Paul Missionary Society wants to remind all donors (both individuals and parishes) to send a note or write directly on the check the specific project – not just the region – that the donation is for, if you intend to designate your gift specifically. Legally, the Missionary Society is required to use funds only for what it is designated by the donor but they can't and don't assume donations are for a specific project if there is no note or designation. If a donation arrives indicating only "Congo" or "Sudan", then the funds will be sent to those countries but for general support and not for specific projects. If donations are received with no designation at all, it will be put in general funds and used for those areas with the most need. While general funds are always needed, the Missionary Society wants to ensure that donors' wishes are followed.

Donors are strongly encouraged to make donations through the Missionary Society, and to not try to send donations directly to the regions. This will ensure that the donor receives proper tax credit for their donation. In addition, going through the Missionary Society will allow funds to be sent all at one time and save money on wire transfer fees, international banking fees or Western Union fees.

As a side note, the Saint Paul Missionary Society is in dire need of general contributions to assist the Province in meeting its budgetary support requirements as enacted by the delegates at Provincial Synod.

Please feel free to contact the provincial deputy bursar, The Rev'd Michael Weaver, at [revfrmichael@ascension-acc.org](mailto:revfrmichael@ascension-acc.org) or 301-466-1313 should you have any questions regarding projects or funds being sent.

## From the Diocese

### Diocesan Synod

The 2016 Diocesan Synod will once again be held at Saint Stephen's, Athens, GA. The Commission on Ministry and Council of Advice will meet on Wednesday, April 27th. The principal Synod Mass, business sessions, and an evening banquet will be held at the pro-cathedral on Thursday, April 28th. A concluding Mass, light breakfast, and departure will follow on Friday morning, the 30th.

Saint Michael & All Angels, Fleming Island, have issued an invitation to the Synod to return to north Florida in 2017. They had hoped to host us this year, but major events impending in the Tarsitano family made 2016 inopportune.'

## From the Parishes and Religious Orders



### The Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion

On Sunday, January 17, 2016 (Epiphany II), at Saint Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Athens, Georgia, Donald A. Contreras made his profession as a Tertiary in the Third Order of the Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion (FODC), and took the name-in-religion of Brother Peter Anthony, TDC. The officiant was the Very Reverend Nicholas C. Athenaelos, Rector and Dean of Saint Stephen's. Also participating were Chris Davis (Brother Nicholas Lawrence, TDC) and David Gibson (Brother Vincent Gregory, TDC). Mr. Contreras and Mr. Davis are parishioners of Saint Stephen's. Mr. Gibson is a parishioner of Saint Hilda of Whitby's in Atlanta, Georgia.



### All Saints ~ Aiken, SC

In good All Saints' tradition, Parishioners came together on Wednesday the 16th to raise their voices in rehearsal for the caroling of Christmas Eve. Inspired by lots of good food and drink, the mood was somewhat joyous as the Advent Tree was lit,

and music sheets were passed around. Organist and Choir Director, **E l i z a b e t h Blount** provided background on each of the carols, and guided us in the proper way of singing each one. Everyone seemed to agree that more music events of this nature were needed.



Mason Collins lights candles for the Midnight Mass.



### All Saints ~ Chattanooga, TN

On October 4 we celebrated Col. Harold N. (Hal) Moorman's 100th Birthday with a big party after our morning service. All 3 of his children, Anne, Hunter and Susan with their spouses attended along with several out of town guests. Our party continued on the following Sunday with a visit from two of Hal's grandchildren. Hal was presented birthday greetings from Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, from former President George W. Bush, and also from the current commandant of the

West Point Military Academy. Hal and his late wife Nancy were among our founding members. We are thankful for his support and wise advice. The attached photo is of Hal cutting his birthday cake using his sabre from West Point where he graduated. Hal's son Hunter is standing behind Hal in the photo.





Archbishop Haverland visited our Parish on December Sixth.



### All Saints ~ Macon, GA

On Saturday, December 12th, All Saints' ~ Macon observed the silver jubilee of the priesting of Father Eugene Rosenkranz (ordained on December 8, 1990) with Evensong, a sermon, by Father Rosenkranz, and a dinner at the Church. Archbishop Haverland presided at Evensong, and made his visitation to our Parish on the next day.



Church of Our Redeemer, Marietta, GA

**Late-breaking news!**

Father Beau Davis has accepted a call to serve 'Our Redeemer. He hopes to take up his new duties there before Easter. 'More in the next *SoX*.



Church of the Resurrection, Ocala, FL

No submission.



Good Shepherd, Palm Bay, FL

On Trinity XV at Good Shepherd, Palm Bay, FL, Archbishop Haverland confirmed Gina Marie Romero.



## **Holy Guardian Angels, Lantana, FL**

On Sunday, September 20th, Archbishop Haverland Confirmed three persons: Valeria Valentina Duran, Kaleb Michael Flego, and Jacob Robert Stapleton. He also received from the Roman Catholic Church two persons: Felipe Falero and Augusto Vallecillo. All were presented by the Venerable David C. Kennedy, SSC, and The Rev'd Canon Sanford R. Sears.

The rector, David Kennedy, SSC, Fr. Canon Sanford Sears - our assisting priest, vestry, wardens and congregation of Holy Guardian Angels, Lantana, Florida greet you once again in the name of Christ, our Lord.

We enjoyed the annual visit of His Grace Archbishop Haverland during the month of September. It was punctuated with several activities including mass with confirmation, and the dedication of our new Narthex, Columbarium and cloister linking the church with the hall. We also enjoyed several several get-togethers for fellowship. It was a blessed time.

Holy Guardian Angels hosted a number of priests from the diocese of Nueva Grenada, including Bishop Herman Ortega, who were visiting the United States to attend the last provincial synod that was recently held. It was a great time of Christian fellowship, building of friendships and a joyous time for all. Several parishoners gracefully housed some of them in their homes, exemplifying the hospitality and kindness us Christians are to have one towards another. Praise God and thanks to all who helped in any way.

During the month of October Fr. Kennedy and several parishioners as well as some Christian friends from other parishes went on a trip to England, which was organized by Brother David Amason and from all reports was enjoyed by all. The group visited Canterbury Cathedral, Rochester Cathedral and The Kings School, Kings College in Cambridge, Ely Cathedral, Peterborough Cathedral, Sandingham House and gardens, Norwich Cathedral, St. Botolph's Church with its 'Boston Stump' tower, Lincoln Cathedral and the Tower of London. This was a wonderful trip brimming with church, royal and English national history, which would have been quite satisfying for those who were able to take advantage of it.

On a sad note, in one context, we have lost a faithful member in Thomas Burroughs who died December 1, 2015, aged 93. Tom was an affable, friendly and quite talented person who gave unselfishly to so many worthy causes that they can't all be enumerated here. That he was also very modest is evident from the fact that many of his contributions were not well known to all until his obituary was written and published in the Palm Beach Post dated December 6, 2015.

He was organist at the University of Tennessee and churches in four states; religion editor and music critic of the Knoxville Journal, graphic designer for Time-Life and Architectural Record; author, counsellor, adjunct professor, and was active in many civic organizations and causes too numerous to mention.

For reasons of conscience he left the Episcopal church in 1977, joining and continuing as an active member of Holy Guardian Angels until his passing. He is certainly missed and we wish only that he rests in peace and will rise in glory.

Christmas has passed, but we take this opportunity to hope that you all had a Christ-filled and joyous Christmas 2015. We invite any of you to come and worship with us any time that you are in the area. Service times and directions as well as other information can be found on our web site, [www.HolyGuardianAngelsLantana.org](http://www.HolyGuardianAngelsLantana.org).





Tom Burroughs.



Dedicating our columbarium.



The Abp. & Adcn. at prayer.



### **Holy Trinity, Greenville, SC**

Archbishop Haverland's visitation to Holy Trinity is scheduled for the weekend of May 15th, Whitsunday.



### **Our Lady of the Angels, New Smyrna Beach, FL**

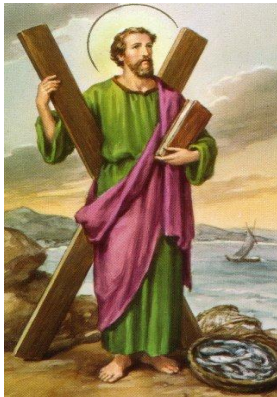
Archbishop Haverland made his visit to our Parish on 22 November, A.D. 2015. Father Rex Rorex retired from his official duties as honorary assistant on 29 December, A.D. 2015, the Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist. Father Rex both celebrated the Mass and preached the homily. Following Mass, the congregation held a luncheon in honor of Father Rex. We remain truly grateful for his faithful assistance.

The Archbishop has announced his plans to license Father David Eastes, former Rector of St. Luke's Church (Anglican Province of America), Port Orange, to assist Canon Richmond Bridge. Following his retirement from Saint Luke's, Father David and his wife Joy have continued to live in Port Orange and frequently have worshipped at Our Lady of the Angels. We look forward to Fr. David's sacramental ministry among us.



## **Our Saviour, Florence, SC**

Our Saviour lost faithful founding member, Anne Willson Bethea Powell, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Archbishop Haverland interred Miss Anne in the city cemetery of her beloved home town of Marion, South Carolina. Our diminished congregation has been faithfully supplied with periodic celebrations of the Eucharist by Father Beau Davis, with kind offers of help also coming from the clergy at Saint Timothy's, Charleston.



## **St. Andrew's, Tallahassee, FL**

John O'Keefe, Cellist at Omnimusica in Tallahassee, Florida, joined Father Patrick Malone, the parish musician, in presenting a special musical program during the 7 p.m. evening mass on Christmas Eve. O'Keefe has a Master's Degree in Musicology and Ethnomusicology from Florida State University.

St. Andrew's Anglican Catholic Church is also engaged in the preliminary stages of renovating its Werkmeister building, a separate structure located in the same yard as the church. Father Malone, senior warden Doug Beard and junior warden Jeff McFarland have already done much preliminary work and plans are under way for a thorough overhaul on the structure. Once finished, the building will serve as a center for hosting Bible studies, small musical events, and inviting prospective members to learn about and join St. Andrew's.

## **As Father Dale Mekeel Celebrates his 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday, He continues to serve the Anglican Catholic Church**

As The Rev'd Dale Mekeel and his parishioners celebrated his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday together last December, Canon Mekeel, who is Rector Emeritus of St. Andrew's Anglican Catholic Church in Tallahassee, Florida, spoke of how much he looked forward to the coming year. One of the most exciting things he anticipated, and something near and dear to his heart, was the coming ordination of parish musician, Patrick Malone, as an Anglican Catholic Priest.

That ordination now in the past, Father Malone currently rotates Sunday sermons with Canon Mekeel. Yet Canon Mekeel, who celebrates his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday this month, is still looking forward, still planning, still working—and still serving his church. His latest project for St. Andrew's was to prompt the vestry into taking action on a building that sits perhaps a hundred yards from the church, but has been unused these past years. The Werkmeister building, named to honor a former Florida State University professor, was a barn which was converted to a house many years ago. Under the guidance of Canon Mekeel, St. Andrew's Anglican Catholic Church is now engaged in renovating Werkmeister once more. When finished, the building will

serve as a center for hosting Bible studies, small musical events, and as an information center for prospective members to learn about and join St. Andrew's.

Surely that optimistic and joyful ability to look ahead with pleasure and to continue serving God is part of the secret of Canon Mekeel's steadfastness as a much beloved priest and family man. He is generally believed to be the oldest active priest in the Anglican Catholic Churches in the United States.

And he was there at the beginning of the Anglican Catholic Church.

At the time of the creation of the new church, Canon Mekeel was a family man, Episcopal priest, and college educator Bridgewater College in Virginia. He and his wife, Clara Jean, made a "heart rendering" decision in 1977. Despite decades of their own service within the Episcopal Church, that year they became organizers of what would become the Anglican Catholic Church.

For Canon Mekeel, this difficult split was precipitated by the 1976 General Convention of the Episcopal Church's vote to adopt a new prayer book. Abandoning the *1928 Book of Common Prayer*, which had served the church for fifty years, the Convention authorized a new book of prayer.

For Canon Mekeel and his wife, there was a "secular humanistic" approach in this new prayer book which disturbed them. "We were both disillusioned by the changes," Canon Mekeel said. They heard of the 1977 International Congress of St. Louis, where 2,000 concerned Episcopal bishops, clergy, and lay people were to meet. They decided to attend. "But we didn't tell anyone we were going, we just went," he said. And, they didn't know a new church would be formed as a result.

There, the address of Dr. Perry Laukhuff, the president of the Fellowship of Concerned Churchmen, illustrated how serious the rift was. Laukhuff presented the "Affirmation of St. Louis," a founding document for the Anglican Catholic Church, which called for lay and clerical representatives to draft a constitution and canons to create a new church.

Walter Cronkite of the CBS Evening News was among the national press covering the event. At one point, as Cronkite spoke, CBS's camera focused on Canon Mekeel and another priest, and this was shown on national television "This is how the [Episcopal] Bishop learned I was there," Canon Mekeel said.

"Clara Jean obtained a list of all the Virginia delegates who registered at the 1977 Congress," he said. "When we got back to Bridgewater (Virginia), we called for a meeting of these delegates. We invited people from the D.C. and Maryland area also."

Founding members from the region met in Charlottesville, Virginia in early January 1978 to officially establish a diocese. They soon adopted a formal name, Dioceses of the Mid-Atlantic States of the Anglican Catholic Church. The Mid-Atlantic States became one of the original five dioceses of the ACC, and Canon Mekeel was one its first three priests.

By 1978, Canon Mekeel was the priest at the Church of the Holy Cross in Bridgewater, a church he helped organize, and he continued with his duties at Bridgewater College. He also served as a visiting priest to new churches in the Tidewater area of Virginia that did not have a priest. He called the first meeting of the St. Matthews Anglican Catholic Church in Newport News, and conducted its first service. To this day, Canon Mekeel still has the cross this congregation gave him when he left Virginia.

Though Bridgewater was the place he and his wife raised their children, and Canon Mekeel remembers the town and college with fondness, he and Mrs. Mekeel left Virginia. He

became the half-time priest at the newly formed St. Andrew's in Tallahassee in 1981, and also assumed a half-time position at Tallahassee Community College as a counselor. From 1981 to 1989, Canon Mekeel divided his time between St. Andrew's and TCC. During this time, he helped expand the reach of the Anglican Catholic Church by becoming a circuit rider. Once a month after regular Mass at St. Andrew's, Canon Mekeel went to other churches, including ones in Atmore, Alabama; Albany, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida. He was also instrumental in starting an ACC in Panama City.

Despite his dedication to the Anglican Catholic Church, in 1989, Canon Mekeel's position at TCC became full-time, and he left St. Andrew's to pursue his work on the campus. He stayed with TCC until he retired in 1993. Sadly, Clara Jean Mekeel died in 2002.

Meanwhile, St. Andrew's in 2002 found itself once more in need of a priest. The Most Rev. Mark Haverland, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Anglican Catholic Church, Diocese of the South, contacted Canon Mekeel, and asked him to "temporarily serve." Now, thirteen years later, Canon Mekeel is still the priest-in-charge at St. Andrew's. He is assisted by newly ordained Father Patrick Malone.

As for his congregation, Canon Mekeel has only praise and affection. "This church has existed since 1979, and though the membership is small, we are very active. We support each other, as well as helping in our communities. At St. Andrew's, we have made major improvements this past year in the building and the grounds, and Patrick [Malone] is reaching out to the [Florida State University] students by leading a Bible study at a popular student hangout. We have new members, including some college students. And we continue to look to the future with faith."

**[Portions of this article originally appeared in the May-June 2015 issue of *THE TRINITARIAN*]**







## **S. Barbara's, Jacksonville, NC**

Saint Barbara's once again decorated a Christmas tree at the Jacksonville Festival of Trees. Proceeds go to the local hospice care center. It is always a good time since to always go out for dinner and drinks following this event. This year we were at an Irish Pub.

We just finished up an Inquirers Class with six new very interested people. We will add at least five new members and maybe more beginning the new year. We are very excited about 2016.

St Barbara's Day is December 4<sup>th</sup> with festival scheduled to take place on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup>. It is always a fun time.

On Sunday, January 3rd, at S. Barbara's Church, Jacksonville, NC, the Archbishop confirmed Juliana Mona Williams, and received Roy Paul Dickinson, Robert Paul Hinks, Rachel Michal Johnson and Jedediah Steven Carl Johnson. All were presented by The Right Reverend Donald Francis Lerow.



## **S. Bartholomew's, New Bern, NC**

Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia. Greetings from Saint Bartholomew's! Since the last 'Southern Cross, we here in New Bern said goodbye to Ginny Campbell as she moved back up North to be closer to her family. For those who aren't familiar with Saint Bartholomew's, Ginny's husband, Fr. Tom Campbell, founded and was first Rector of our Parish. So besides being a wonderful person Ginny will continue to be missed for all she did for this parish.

As this issue goes to press I will be back from spending the holidays from Thanksgiving through Epiphany in Germany with my daughter and her family, which includes my two grandchildren. 'One of the best holidays ever.



During my time away Saint Bartholomew's was blessed to have Mass said most Sunday's thanks to the coverage provided from Bishop Lerow and Fr. Weiss. I also want to thank the parish family for their willingness to change service times when needed.

Thanks also goes to Archbishop Haverland for adjusting his schedule and coming to the parish on January 3rd. His Grace also presided over the 2016 Annual Meeting. After serving the parish admirably for the last 3 years Linda Muir stepped down as Senior Warden and that position was filled by Steve Elliot. Linda on behalf of a grateful parish - THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID.

Continuing on as Vestry members (and thanks be to God for that) is Madeline Knie as Jr. Warden and Bob Muir as Treasurer. The parish is in good hands. Soon we will begin our Lenten journey to Calvary and then to the Feast of the Resurrection. May that journey be Spirit-filled for all.

Fr. Leahy



**S. Benedict's, Chapel Hill, NC**

No submission.



**S. Francis of Assisi, Gainesville, GA**

Archbishop Haverland made his formal annual visitation on Epiphany II, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Confirmations and receptions will be held later in the year, however, since the Bishop is able to be with us every few months. Father Jonah Bruce is a worker-priest, but is able to supply virtually every Sunday, most Wednesdays, and for major feast days as well.



## S. George's, Fayetteville, NC

Saint George's ~ Fayetteville had its annual visitation by Archbishop Haverland on November 8 followed by a breakfast reception.

Advent was inaugurated with the traditional recitation of the litany as part of the main service.

Christmas services were held at 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve and 8:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

The Circumcision was celebrated at 8:30 a.m. January 1.



## S. Hilda of Whitby, Atlanta, GA

As always, life at the "Little Church on the Corner" continues to be very busy. With birthday celebrations and Saints' Feasts, there's always something going on at St Hilda's. We recently welcomed the newest (and youngest) member of our altar party, Lee Drawdy, and got him fitted out in a new cassock and cotta. We continue to have visitors almost every Sunday and are very pleased with our new Visitor Information Packets. This year's Atlanta Streets Alive Festival was a great success. We put up a tent on our front lawn (thanks to Trey Drawdy) and treated the passers-by to "Lunch on the Lawn." It was a great day and we met many neighbors and answered a great many questions. As always this year the Feast of St Francis included the "blessing of the animals," all of whom were beautifully behaved. The Archbishop visited with us on the Feast of St Hilda, and as always it was a glorious celebration. As we go to press, a film company is using our parish hall for catering for the cast and crew while they film next door. As we begin Advent, we are looking forward to celebrating the Nativity of our Lord. For more information about St Hilda's visit <http://www.sthildasacc.org>.

Saint Hilda's ladies assembled reusable tote bags for an entire wing of Harvest Nursing Facility on John's Island. In each tote was a heavy-duty fleece poncho, toiletries, candy, Christmas ornaments, perfume for ladies and hugs for all. Each bag had hand painted smaller bags adding to the Christmas spirit for each resident. Katherine Oakley, Emily Towle, Jamie Gregson, Ruth Taylor, Kathleen Grimball, Barbra Bentley, and Mary Hoyle assembled the bags on Tuesday after the Mass for the Immaculate Conception of Mary, with twelve in attendance, several members were ill and couldn't attend. Those contributing their efforts also were Pam Wencel, Joyce Schmaus, Glenda Barnett, Bruce Waddey, Augusta Allen and Kris Ritenow. Kathleen Grimball stated that when the bags were delivered some of those that received them were deeply moved and welcomed the hugs of those that delivered them Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to this project the guild contributed to Missionary Society of Saint Paul several times this year in addition to individuals in need and the Harvest Food Bank. This year the guild had the following fund raisers: Dinners- turkey, spaghetti, ham and rib; and a crafts sale. Officers are Kathleen Grimbal- President, Jamie Gregson- Vice President and Mary Hoyle,

Secretary. The ladies guild is open to all members of Saint Timothy's and if you are working during their meeting times you still can contribute by working fundraiser events on Saturday. An example would be the Crats sale & Dinners were most everyone of the Parish has been involved in some way. Thank you ladies!



Lee Drawdy joins the Altar Party



The Archbishop's visit on 15 November.



### **S. Luke's, Augusta, GA**

Bishop John Ndegwa, Bishop of Kenya, visited S. Luke's, Augusta, GA, on All Saints' Day. The Archbishop celebrated the Mass, while Bishop Ndegwa preached. A lovely potluck dinner followed for all the visitors.



### **S. Mary's, Winter Haven, FL**

Father Guy and Joan DiMartino have decided that Indiana is just too cold. The congregation is relieved to have Father Guy's services once more on a regular basis. We are very grateful to Father Don Lock for supply in 2015.



### **S. Michael & All Angels, Orange Park, FL**

The Reverend Richard Tarsitano and Meghan are expecting a baby in early April. They also are expecting Father Deacon's priestly ordination on the feast of Saint George, Saturday, April 23rd. Meanwhile the parish is grateful for the regular presence of Father Robert Adams and the long-time rector, Father Wells.





## **S. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Athens, GA**

Saint Stephen's Pro-Cathedral was honored to host the XXIst Provincial Synod of the Original Province of the Anglican Catholic Church, October 26-30 in Athens. The Administrative Council, College of Bishop's meetings, and Opening Synod Mass were held at the Pro-Cathedral with all other events taking place at the University of Georgia Hotel & Conference Center. Father Athanaelos is grateful to the 70+ parishioners who hosted clergy/lay persons in their homes, and assisted with registration, transportation, altar guild, choir, secretarial duties, set-up/clean up, entertainment, and the numerous tasks that go unnoticed, but make all else run smoothly. God Bless You All!

A special thank you to Mrs. Diane Gill and Mrs. Kelly Padgett for coordinating the catering events at St. Stephen's, including the Monday & Tuesday meals, and reception following the Wednesday evening Mass. Those attending were very complimentary!

With much of October focused on synod matters, November and December have the parish back on a somewhat "normal" schedule. Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfasts, Women's Meet & Greet, Women's Guild, and Bible studies resumed their regular meeting times and continue to do very well.

The Saint Stephen's Cub, Tiger, and Weblo Scouts had a very successful popcorn sale following the Masses on the First Sunday in Advent. Parishioners purchased nearly \$700 in popcorn products that will support the Cub's 2016 activities. Parishioners also donated new cotton socks to the Scouts for distribution at local convalescent centers.

Archbishop Haverland made his annual pastoral visit to St. Stephen's on Sunday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m., during which he confirmed four and received one new member. Our congratulations to Clare Helwig, Kaye Riggs, Elizabeth Harr, Kathy Allen, and Ron Carlson. Seven others will be confirmed/received in early 2016. A covered dish luncheon followed the Mass.

Also on the First Sunday in Advent, the St. Stephen's Choir and voices from the University of Georgia, offered a service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 5:00 p.m. to a full church. A wine and cheese reception followed in Lewis hall.

Our thanks to April Brown and Alice Hayes for collecting coats for our local homeless shelter and providing toys/treats for less fortunate children. The parish response was overwhelming!

Saint Stephen's prays that all in the Diocese had a Holy Advent and a Happy Christmas!





## **S. Timothy's, Charleston, SC**

Early in November the women of the parish had an Arts and Crafts Fair and also a dinner to raise \$1,000. On Saint Nicholas weekend the Junior Warden's "Fun Group" sponsored a Christmas party. The Saint Hilda's Ladies guild raised \$300 wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble. The proceeds of all activities go to help the needy in the Charleston area and the Bishop's overseas projects.

The men of the parish meet for breakfast on Saturday mornings and typically are involved in assisting at Altar maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

Father Deacon Peter and Father Bentley were active in 40 Days for Life. The parish has been blessed by a new singer and soloist, Dorene O'Connor, from Jamaica and we had the pleasure of her performing a solo at Christmas Eve Mass.

Joshua Michalik is on duty in the Army at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel in North Korea and we are able to talk to him on Skype. Jodi Cockburn was accepted and is attending Eastern Carolina University on scholarships. We should have about seven people ready for the Archbishop's visit on Passion Sunday.



Christmas Party sponsored by Saint Hilda's Guild.



Fr. Dcn. Peter Towle, OHI, and Canon Frederick Bentley, OHI, after celebration of Mass On Holy Innocents Day.



## Trinity, Port Charlotte, SC

Bishop Stanley Lazarczyk received five new members into the congregation and the ACC on Epiphany II, January 17<sup>th</sup>:

J. Michael and Nancy Jackson, Pearline Wyzard, and Carol Spence were received as confirmed in the Episcopal Church, and Mary Dickervitz was received from the Roman Catholic Church. Archbishop Haverland's visitation is scheduled for Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Reflections

### *Who is Melchizedek?*

Recently, the question was posed: who is Melchizedek? Little is known of Melchizedek, and he is mentioned in the Old Testament only twice, specifically in Genesis 14: 18, and once in the New Testament. The following verses, 18 – 20, are the complete reference from Genesis:

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*

What we conclude here is that Melchizedek was both king and priest, King of Salem and Priest to the Most High God. Notably in his blessing of Abraham, he brings bread and wine, which also prefigures the use of wine in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Melchizedek is also mentioned in Psalm 110; again the specific reference is in the 4th verse, but the entire Psalm is short, as follows:

*THE LORD said unto my Lord, \* Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion: \* be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies. 3 In the day of thy power shall thy people offer themselves willingly with an holy worship: \* thy young men come to thee as dew from the womb of the morning. 4 The LORD sware, and will not repent, \* Thou art a Priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. 5 The Lord upon thy right hand \* shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath. 6 He shall judge among the heathen; \* he shall fill the places with the dead bodies, and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook in the way; \* therefore shall he lift up his head.*

In the New Testament, Melchizedek is referred to by St. Paul in his Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 6: 20 through 7: 4:

*Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met*

*Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.*

In his Epistle, St. Paul proves the superiority Christ's priesthood to that of Aaron and the Levite by referring to Melchizedek as prefiguring Christ. Melchizedek, thus, becomes the model for priesthood.

*~Submitted by Fr. Alexander.*

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**E**arly in December we celebrate The Feast of the Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary (according to our Kalendar) – In the Eastern Church, Old Catholic and Catholic Anglican Churches the *Immaculate Conception of Our Lady* is not dogma (declared divinely revealed truth) or required to be believed for salvation. When it is said the Blessed Mother was Immaculately Conceived, this means (in Roman Catholic theology) that at the beginning of life in the womb of “Anne” (name given by tradition not scripture) her mother; she (Mary) was in a sinless condition and to them this is a dogma.

Now in extremely simplistic terms (which always gets one in trouble when used) because theology is certainly exacting to avoid heresy, I will try to get to the crux of the situation. While the Pope (Bishop of Rome) proclaimed this a dogma (Immaculate Conception), “*he is only first among equals*” and therefore not able to establish Dogma which adds to the faith without the Ecumenical Council of all Bishops (not just Roman). The problem is not that Our Blessed Mother was not immaculate at the very least at the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit in her womb. It is hard to imagine she was the tabernacle of God and corrupted with sin. The difficulty centers around something called “Original Sin” in that she (Mary) being conceived not by the Holy Spirit, but by natural means would mean she would carry all human nature (including sin?). The *Theotokos* (*Mother of God*) was how our Lord (who was totally God & Man) took on his humanity, his blood comingled with hers and her DNA was also his in the lineage of Jesse (in the royal lineage). Of course Jesus was totally human in everyway except he was sinless.

On ACC calendars, the Feast is called the “Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” The American Missals give three possible collects (Prayers of the day). The first mentions Mary's “spotless conception.” The second simply say she has (with no specific time specified) “singular grace.” The third uses plain “Immaculate conception” language.

The historic church generally agrees that Mary has not committed any personal, mortal sin in her life (though the possibility of venial sin was upheld by Chrysostom... This is also what most Eastern theologians understand by the terms Immaculate, Spotless, All-Holy, Most Pure, etc.

Mary was called the “*new Eve*” by the Christian Fathers such as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus. Augustine “*exempted the Virgin Mary from actual but not original sin*”. Thomas Aquinas argued against Augustine because he believed: “*that Mary's conception was a natural one and in every natural conception original sin is transmitted*”.

*"I say that the Virgin Mary could not be sanctified before Her conception, inasmuch as She did not exist. if, all the more, She could not be sanctified in the moment of Her conception by reason of the sin which is inseparable from conception, then it remains to believe that She was sanctified after She was conceived in the womb of Her mother. This sanctification, if it annihilates sin, makes holy Her birth, but not Her conception. No one is given the right to be conceived in sanctity; only the Lord Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit." Bernard of Clairvaux*

*"Therefore St. Bernard was perfectly justified when he demanded a careful inquiry into the reasons for observing the feast. Not advertent to the possibility of sanctification at the time of the infusion of the soul, he writes that there can be question only of a sanctification after conception, which would render holy the nativity not the conception itself (Scheeben, "Dogmatik", III, p. 550)." Hence Albert the Great observes: "We say that the Blessed Virgin was not sanctified before animation, and the affirmative contrary to this is the heresy condemned by St. Bernard in his epistle to the canons of Lyons" (III Sent., dist. p. I, ad I, Q. i).*

*I like a quote right out of our Anglican Altar Missal: "The Church cannot keep a Feast in veneration of sin, be it actual or original. There can be no Feast in honor of physical birth kept except of our Lord, of our Lady, and Saint John Baptist (who was declared to be sanctified from his mother's womb). The Church calls the death-day of a Saint his or her heavenly birthday because of the joy in final deliverance from sin, actual and original..."*

*At any rate no universal decision has ever been made on the subject and the specifics. Anglican theology re-forms to the original Catholic understanding that dogma must be supported by Reason, Tradition & Scripture. The Prayer Book collect for the Nativity says: "ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, etc. In the Latin, Castus means pure or chaste. Sanctus is holy-pure or immaculate.*

*Submitted by Canon Bentley, OHI.*

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