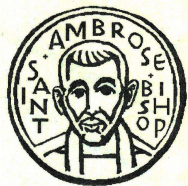


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Edition



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
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Editor
Yvonne Sidell

Reflections from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Prayer is a foundation of our lives of faith. Prayer connects us not only with God, but with each other and ourselves. Prayer allows us the opportunity to quiet our minds and focus on those things that we wish to pray for.

This Lent, I am happy to share with you that we will have guest preachers who will share with us many various ways of prayer. Our speakers are people I have known for years and they, in my opinion, are people of great faith and prayer. Here is the schedule:

March 12 - Rev. Rebecca Goldberg

March 19 - Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer, BSG (pulpit exchange)

March 26 - The Rev. Dr. Lizette Larson-Miller

I ask you to please come and join us, as these people are taking time from their busy lives to share their experience of prayer and to help us grow in our prayer lives.

I also encourage you to join us for our Holy Week Services. This is a beautiful time when we gather and walk with Jesus in his last days. We will gather:

Palm Sunday - 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (ONE SERVICE ONLY) - 10:00 a.m.

I hope to see you all.

May God's Peace always be with you.

Annual Meeting Sermon – by Father Jason

I want to share with you that this was not an easy sermon to write. Writing an annual report is difficult as it is, but this one is especially tough, as I want to bring things to your attention that can be difficult.

A year ago today, I heard of a church that was looking for a new priest. I was intrigued at first hearing about this community and the work they had done, and now looking to a new chapter in their lives. They had a priest for over 20 years, and from what I could tell in my conversations and reading of their parish profile, they were looking for change and for a new way of being church; not only in their own community, but in the larger world.

I applied and was lucky enough to get an interview. I met with the search committee and was impressed hearing their questions as well as what they were looking for in their next priest. There was a desire to get out of the normal that they had been experiencing and face the challenges of an ever-changing world and church. I then came out in April to see the church and the community. I was immediately impressed by how the school was being run, and in my conversations with the various people who were interviewing me. Ultimately, I was called to be the next Rector and I accepted. As you may have figured out, the community I am talking about is THIS community; St. Ambrose.

Through each step of this process, I leaned into my discernment skills. Praying and asking if God is calling me to the next phase of the process. I spent time in prayer and talking with those who are my council of advice, to ensure that I felt that God was calling me to St. Ambrose and to move to California. Through it all I kept hearing God answer me with a resounding yes, this is the next place you should be. But just because I am here now and I am serving as your Rector the work of discernment does not end, but rather it continues every single day. I knew that there would be challenges and I was ready to accept those challenges with what was shared with me in my multiple interviews.

I arrived in California with excitement and was ready to embrace this new opportunity. After working diligently to serve this community for the last six months, I feel that I have made forward progress on many levels and backward regression on others. While I certainly expected some speed bumps on this journey, I never really expected the true roadblocks I have encountered. While my intention was to arrive and sit back and learn how things worked at St. Ambrose, certain situations didn't allow that. I learned very quickly that there were financial issues that needed attention and immediate resolve. The internet was a total disaster, the offices for myself and the principal were in need of heating/cooling, and the amount of deferred maintenance of the property needed to be addressed. I also learned that there were many practices in place that, while they were good and implemented well, were not practices that I was used to or comfortable continuing. The good news is that we now have a better internet system for our campus, and we have heating and cooling for our entire building. We have hired a new bookkeeper that has worked diligently with myself to help ensure that our accounting reporting is clean and clear. This has taken a huge amount of administrative time which has meant that I have not been able to focus on the priestly ministry that my contract calls for.

Annual Meeting Sermon – (continued)

Sadly, each time I suggested that changes be made, I was met with push back, unkind remarks, talk behind my back, anonymous emails, among other things. Please know that if I have implied or led you to believe that I did not embrace or support what happened before my arrival, I apologize.

Although many of us attend the same seminary, we are all unique and operate very autonomously. I remind you that there is more than one way to skin a cat and as long as we are all worshiping, getting the care we need and following the diocesan way, it really does not matter how we do it. Just as each of you go about your daily lives in ways that are comfortable to you, I too must lead you in ways that are comfortable to me. Organizational Leadership looks and works very differently for each leader.

We are very blessed to have our school which provides over 69% of our income. Our stewardship campaign netted \$90K which is not enough to cover the salary for the priest and any other expenses; lights, gas etc. that our community needs. Our school provides us with great income and I would want us to reinvest that income into our school to help them have the best tools to be successful. Without them, we simply would not survive.

We have lots of good news here at St. Ambrose in a short period of time. We have expanded our outreach with our new partner Bayview Mission. We have, with a great resounding yes, helped our friends who are in need and our community. Our school continues to amaze me by the hard work our principal and teachers do each day providing a wonderful learning environment for children, and helping to subsidize the work we are doing here at St. Ambrose.

Despite our challenges and our successes I am here today to say we can work through these. Our answers of the baptismal covenant are clear, “I will with God’s help.” We are able to accomplish anything as long as we are engaged with God’s help, in prayer and with our hands and hearts. We will shortly gather at this altar for communion. We will come and break bread together and share the good news of Christ. This is why we do church; we do it for God and for our relationship with God. No matter the challenges ahead of us we will continue to break bread and to focus on God together.

Earlier this month, I wrote personally to each person on our roll inviting them to meet with me and with that said I am calling for us to enter a season of discernment and I ask you the following questions:

1. What does support from the rector look like?
2. What does support FOR the rector look like?
3. What am I willing to do to participate in the life of the church?
4. What are my hopes and dreams for St. Ambrose and how will I support them?

We can use the time when we meet individually to answer these questions, but also to get to know each other and form a tighter relationship.

With God’s help anything is possible.

AMEN

Announcements

SCAM ALERT:

Bishop Marc, Father Jason and diocesan staff will NEVER ask you to buy gift cards or money orders. Beware of these emails requesting these items.

Holy Week

Join us for Holy Week!

Palm Sunday (April 2) 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday (April 6) 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday (April 7) 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil (April 8) 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (April 9) 10:00 a.m. (**ONLY ONE SERVICE**)

Fellowship Lunches or Dinners

An opportunity to get better acquainted with other people from St. Ambrose!

Groups of six to eight meet once a month, February through May, for potluck dinner or lunch in a group member's home. Please contact Mike Lord (650-274-9244, miclord58@yahoo.com) or Nellie Wong (650-372-0728, wwong@nd.edu) for more information and to express interest!

Watch for: (1) Sign-up sheets in the Foyer
(2) Details in the weekly bulletin

Intercession Prayers

The apostle James tells us to "pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

If you would like the St. Ambrose community to pray with you, please write your intercession in the Blessing book placed in the Narthex or send your request to stambrosefc@att.net. Your prayer will be included at the following mass service. Please leave your name and contact information in the booklet, in case clarifications are needed.

Thank you!
Raphael

Announcements (continued)

St. Ambrose Choir

The choir will resume rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. We will be masked and correctly distanced, and would be happy for anyone who wishes to join us. If you wish to join us, please let Maureen know so she can prepare a folder for you. You may contact her at mhfromme@yahoo.com OR 415.990.6758.

Contemplative Meditation Group

Welcome to our "Contemplative Meditation" group. We meet weekly on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.**

That's right! We find the week kicks into gear...before you know it, we are two hectic days into it. Take a respite. Take time (40 minutes) and mindful breaths with us. Join and listen with our compassionate, contemplative, and mindful community. Be heard if you choose to share.

We choose to continue meeting on Zoom for convenience and minimal disruption of life. If you wish, an email-list reminder can arrive in your inbox Tuesday nights -- write to:

hfongster@gmail.com (Questions are welcome here)

[Click this link on Wednesday's 10am to join Zoom.](#)

Or use this QR code:



We currently are exploring excerpts from Henri Nouwen's *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. Nouwen looks at lifting each other up with compassion from both perspectives, healer and wounded.

Thank you!
Hamilton

Announcements (continued)

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for coffee hour, summer days and stewardship dinner. If you are interested, please contact me at valentin_fe@yahoo.com! *Thank you!*

***Please see other valuable Announcements in the
St. Ambrose Worship Bulletins***

Sunday School News – by Fe Valentin and Raphaelae Gerber

Sunday School is back!

Teacher Fe and Teacher Raphaelae will conduct the class outdoors every week for children Pre-K and up. Class will offer story time, songs, and lots of fun! We are looking forward to seeing your kids, with their big smiles!

To support this program, we would like to engage our community. We are calling for helpers as we (Fe and Raphaelae) will each teach every other week and **will need one helper every week** (no special skills required).

Please reach to saintambrosesundayschool@gmail.com for more information.

Respectfully Yours,

Fe Valentin and Raphaelae Gerber

March Hymn – by Maureen Fromme

“Forgive Our Sins” – GATHER Hymnal # 879

The month of March contains four of the Sundays of Lent – time for prayer, for thanks, for renewal and forgiveness. The text of this song was written by the British medical worker and hymn writer, Rosamund Herklots (1905-1987). *(A personal note– she was born in India of British parents who were missionaries in north India - a hill station named Masuri (Mussoorie), where I taught for two years.)*

In her text for this song, she encourages us to forgive, to pray for God to grant us grace, to pardon the unforgiving heart, the debt of love we owe to our Lord, and to love and spread God’s peace. The various scriptures that she alludes to are Matthew 6:12, Luke 11:4 and Colossians 3:13.

The Hymn Tune ‘Detroit’ was composed or arranged by William Bradshaw in 1820 and appeared in a song book entitled “Kentucky Harmony”. The Companion to Hymns and Psalms (1988), the companion to the 1983 Methodist hymnal used in England, provides the origins of this hymn, which was written in June 1966 and printed soon afterward in the parish magazine of St. Mary’s Church, Bromley, Kent. The idea of the hymn had occurred to Miss Herklots when she was digging out weeds in her nephew’s garden; she reasoned that their deep roots, obstructing the growth of the flowers near them, resembled the bitterness and resentment that can become entrenched and hinder the Christian’s growth in grace.

I encourage you listen to and sing along with this hymn that can be a prayer during Lent:
<https://youtu.be/0pme3M50tyM>

Respectfully Yours,

Maureen Fromme

March Outreach – by Steve Yuen

While the Bay Area suffers through one of the coldest, stormiest winters in half a century, your humble Outreach Coordinator is roughing it in the Sandwich Islands, which, by the way is how Mark Twain referred to Hawaii in his book *Roughing It*.

The English explorer Captain James Cook was the first European discoverer of the Hawaiian Islands and named them after his sponsor John Montagu, aka the 4th Earl of Sandwich, in 1778. The “Sandwich Islands” moniker lasted through the 19th century (Mark Twain’s book was published in 1872), but the usage was dropped when the Kingdom was overthrown in 1893. The Islands were annexed by the United States in 1898 and became the Territory of Hawaii.



But the Earl of Sandwich is best known for the item of food that bears his name. As the legend goes, the Earl was an inveterate gambler who didn’t want to leave the tables for a meal. He would call for his servant to bring him two slices of bread with a slab of meat in between. He could continue playing while holding the food in one hand, and the bread would prevent the cards from getting greasy. The “sandwich” continues its utility in modern times, as grease-avoiding users of cellphones and TV remotes can attest.

The next Sandwiches on Sunday is April 30. We’ll prepare the sandwiches in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 29, tentatively starting at noon. Please contact Steve Yuen (stevebyuen@aol.com, 650 315-9662) if you have any questions.

Sea Breeze School – by Jerelyn Weber

Sea Breeze will report in April.

Respectfully Yours,

Jerelyn Weber

The Editor's Corner – by Yvonne Sidell



“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” – Hebrews 4:12

If you're a football fan like me, you've seen this situation play out many times:

It's 4th and 1 with just seconds to go on the clock. The next play will determine who wins and who loses. The offense sets up to run the play. Tensions are high and...the whistle blows. Timeout!

So what happened here?

Well, the quarterback was getting ready to run a play that could determine the fate of the game. But he saw something in the defense he didn't like. So he calls timeout and walks over to the sideline to talk to the head coach about the upcoming play. He doesn't go talk to the water boy or the trainer. He gets advice from the right person!

One of the most destructive things a Christian can do is follow advice that isn't biblically informed.

Oh, it may sound good, but the truth is that following advice based on feelings or emotion can very often dig you into an even deeper hole!

So when you need advice, seek out those who are biblically wise. Don't let emotion and what sounds good keep you from doing what's right. The best kind of life is one that's lived by the Word of God. That's where real joy is found!

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Elliott Dun	1
Cathy Rincon	2
Donna Avakoff	6
Hendri Tjandra	6
Shaiji Ajit	8
John Miller	14
Phoebe Venkat	14
Kenneth Nagar	16
Karen Nagar	18
Anders Zhou	18
Pearl Walker	22
Lyra Tanner	24
James Stephens	25
Grace Rawley	26
Lily Cate Moriarty	27



Anniversaries

Shawn & Phoebe Venkat	21
Eunice & Kenny Chee	30