

The Red Door

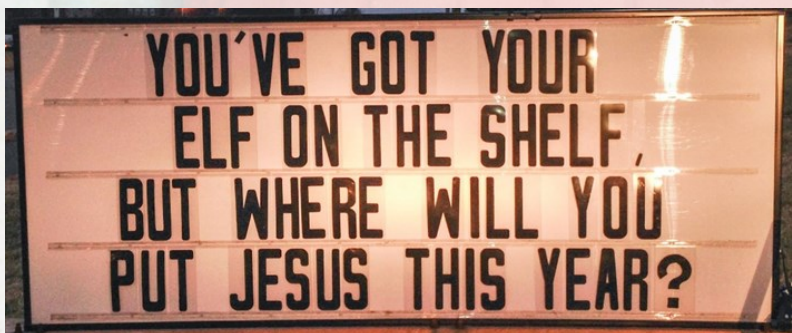


St. Mary's Episcopal Church

December 2023

RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR

PARISH READING



EXTRACTED FROM THE CLUTTER OF THE RECTOR'S DESK

NEW LITURGICAL
MOVEMENT

SACRED LITURGY & LITURGICAL ARTS



NOVUS MOTUS
LITURGICUS

ESTABLISHED ANNO DOMINI MMV

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

(Matthew 3:1-3 NRSV)

What does it mean that Advent is a penitential season? It is nothing like Lent, is it? There is no tradition of giving things up or confessing our sins or examining our faith ... or is there?

Well, not the first two, but examining our faith – yes! This is a key aspect of the meaning of the Advent season. Every year we are called to spend the four weeks leading up to Christmas to get ready for Jesus to come into our lives all over again. It is a time of very intentional self-examination and preparation. We lose this in our modern secular understanding of Christmas which is mostly defined by the shopping season.

Traditionally, the Christmas season does not even start until Christmas day (nightfall on December 24th). It continues to through the following twelve days ending with the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th. The focus on buying gifts (which is very much part of the tradition, but not the focus of it) has turned Christmas upside down – and not in a good way. We have lost our time of preparation. We have lost our twelve-day celebration. We have lost the power of this season's focus on the birth of Jesus.

This year we are trying to recover some of this sense of preparation throughout Advent. We are doing what Christians have done almost from the beginning. We are taking something from our culture and giving it a new (old) purpose. We are celebrating something which has been called a "Saint Nicholas Advent." Saint Nicholas was known (among other things such as punching Arius during a debate) for giving gifts to those in need. Each Sunday during Advent you will be asked to bring gifts. These gifts will be small and specifically targeted to different groups in need. Be sure to pay attention to the announcements each Sunday to make sure you know what to bring the next Sunday.

Rev Warren Huestis

Yes, Advent IS a Penitential Season

GREGORY DIPIPPO

It seems that the start of every new liturgical year brings forth at least one article in the Catholic parts of the web "explaining" that Advent is not a penitential season. The Code of Canon Law is generally cited, since Advent is not included in the "official" list of penitential days and seasons, along with the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which describes it as a period of "devout and joyful expectation," with no mention of penance.

The reality of the matter is more complex. The Church's traditions are not comprehensively determined by or summed up in any Code of Canon Law, nor in any Missal or other liturgical book. It is true that Advent is not a fasting season, and has not been so in the West for a very long time. On the other hand, fasting in Lent, the most ancient and universal sign of that season's penitential nature, has been reduced to a risible two days, and the many references to "fasting" have either been removed or changed to "abstinence" in the prayers and hymns of the Lenten liturgy. And yet no one would claim that Lent is therefore not a penitential season.

Historically, Advent and Lent have a great deal in common liturgically, and that has actually not changed very much in the post-Conciliar rite. The liturgical colors of the season, violet and rose, remain the same. (More on this below.) From very ancient times, the vestments which symbolize the joy of a feast day, the dalmatic and tunic, were replaced in both seasons by folded chasubles, which were then (inexplicably) abolished tout court, not just for Advent. (In churches which did not have them, the deacon and subdeacon served in albs, the former with a stole.) In the new rite, the dalmatic may be left off "for necessity's sake, or because of a lesser degree of solemnity." (GIRM 338) Since no indication is given as to what constitutes "a lesser degree of solemnity," one is perfectly free to regard the Sundays of Advent as less solemn than the festivities of the Christmas season, and leave the dalmatics off. (The vagueness of this rubric has, unfortunately but inevitably, lead in many places to the abuse of deacons never wearing a dalmatic, but rather the penitential arrangement of alb and stole, even on the greatest solemnities.) →

VESTRY

John Joy, Sr Warden
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Andrea Harner
 Judy Sauer
 Matt Sauer
 Barb Zumwalde
 1 opening
 Newsletter editor—John Glaze

Parish Reading *(continued)*

In the Mass, the Gloria in excelsis is omitted on Sunday in both Forms of the Roman Rite. On the ferial days of Advent, the Alleluia is traditionally omitted before the Gospel; this is optional in the Novus Ordo, which is to say, a perfectly licit way of continuing to observe the Church's historical custom. Traditionally, Advent and Lent also both saw the removal of flowers from the altar, and the silencing of the organ. In the post-Conciliar liturgy, this has been slightly modified; flowers and the organ are forbidden in Lent (not merely discouraged), but may be used in Advent "with that moderation which is fitting for the nature of this season." (GIRM 305 and 313) Again, the rubrics' vagueness leaves one perfectly free to decide that they are best left off altogether.

The exceptions to the traditional rule about flowers and organ music are Gaudete and Laetare Sundays, on which they may be used as they would be on other Sundays and feasts, along with the characteristic rose-colored vestments, which were created as a mitigation of the penitential violet. The continued existence of Gaudete Sunday in the middle of Advent is the clearest sign that the season's penitential character endures.

And If It Isn't, It Should Be

Laying all this aside, when the time comes to Reform the Reform, (as it certainly will, even though we know not the day nor the hour,) it will have to be admitted that "devout and joyful expectation" has been a failure, and should be redressed as such. It does not seem to have achieved anything at all by way of restraining the orgy of consumerism that passes for Christmas in much of the world. The spectacle of "Black Friday" shopping on the day after Thanksgiving is fortunately limited to the United States, (where, however, Catholics are the single largest Christian denomination by an enormous margin.) The restoration of some degree of fasting and penance in Advent, already practiced by many on a private level, would provide a powerful Catholic witness to the "reason for the season."

While videos of Black Friday are often a very sad thing to watch, personally I have always found it even sadder to see how many Christmas trees are out on the sidewalk with the trash by the evening of the *(continued next page)* 26th. This is one of many common signs that, rather than being kept as a season of expectation, joyful or otherwise, Advent has become in many places a backwards version of the Christmas and Epiphany octaves. Pastorally, the Church should encourage the faithful to bear witness to the importance of the birth of Christ by keeping the whole of the Christmas season, with the very ancient and important feasts that follow, as the great prolonged festival it traditionally was; reestablishing a formally penitential character for Advent would certainly help us to do that, as Lent does for Easter.

[https:// www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2016/12/yes-advent-is-penitential-season.html](https://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2016/12/yes-advent-is-penitential-season.html)

*Advent - you will receive Advent Meditation leaflets each week in the Sunday bulletin!
 Please use these to prepare your hearts for the Christmas season. Remember those less fortunate. One way to do that is by participating in the gift-giving tree in Lucy Hall. Set a goal for yourself to participate in Soups On a couple times this year!*



SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Holiday season is upon us, and with that comes quickly the end of another year. I believe we at St. Mary's have much to be thankful for so this is a great time to reflect on our blessings. The construction work is moving along steadily, and as soon as emergency lights are installed and we get the next electrical inspection approved, the sub-floor installation can begin. This will allow the HVAC equipment and ductwork to be installed, along with the replacement wall material where the marble was removed. The organ can be moved back to the front and tested, and then the final finish work and flooring can be done.

We have been truly blessed by the generosity of Carlene Philips, whose bequest has been a significant force behind stabilizing our finances. There should be ample money to finish the current work and have some funds left over for future use and/or as a contingency. The grant we received from the Diocese of Southern Ohio was also instrumental in allowing us to get through this major undertaking. Important also are the multitude of good things happening at St. Mary's. Attendance has been boosted by new attendees, along with some returning faces we hadn't seen in a while. Our ministries are on the rebound and I would kindly remind you all of the opportunities to contribute in various ways to the work at St. Mary's. We have been blessed to find an active, knowledgeable, and thoughtful Priest in Rev. Warren and the partnership with All Saints is progressing nicely to the benefit of both churches. As the year winds down, let's all look at ways to continue to maintain and improve our support of the various efforts at St. Mary's for involvement. Barb Zumwalde has led the efforts to establish opportunities to support the less fortunate on each of the Sundays in December, so please check with her on what is available, if you haven't already done so. I would also like to thank our church Secretary Maggie for her work, as she continues to gain experience in a variety of duties; as well as going above and beyond in supporting the work of our church. Please join me in being grateful for our blessings this year, and in looking forward to what should be a great year for St. Mary's in 2024.

John Joy
 Senior Warden

Gifts from New York City

When St. Mary's was ready for consecration, Thomas P. Cummings, a friend of Founder, William H. Bayard, made the long journey from New York to Hillsboro to be present. He brought along with him several items--



important items for the life of the church. We don't know the means of travel available to him, but judging from the items he

brought, it certainly had to be an arduous journey.

Virtually, the hand of each parishioner for 168 years has touch at least one part of the communion set. It includes a flagon, paten and chalice and is engraved, "St. Mary's P. E.



Church Consecrated Oct 25, 1855. This beautiful service was made by Cooper & Fisher.

Francis W. Cooper worked as a silversmith in New York City from 1842 until 1890 when his shop was destroyed by fire. In 1851, Cooper began producing communion silver



for Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of New York and eventually made silver for parishes in a number of East Coast dioceses. Richard Fisher worked with Cooper from 1854 until 1862.

In addition to the silver set, there is a wooden box, specially fitted and lined with chamois. The box retains the original paper "Cooper and Fisher" label. In addition, there is a small plaque on the box with our church name and our city.

The gifts from Mr. Cummings also included a Sunday School library of 100 volumes as well as books for the pulpit and lectern.

The largest item presented was the baptismal font, still in use today! It was originally located in the front of the congregation. As you may remember, the current baptistry was a porch originally.

Thank you, Mr. Cummings, for your kindness and generosity! We remember you fondly.



December
Happy Birthday!

25 - Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph; son of God and son of Man.



The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

SERVICE TIME
Sunday - 9 am



DECEMBER SCHEDULE



Advent 1
3 December

0900 - Eucharist II



Advent 2
10 December -
0900

Advent/Christmas Lessons &
Carols w/Eucharist

Happy 1st week of Advent!



Wednesday
13 December

1200 - Eucharist II



Advent 3
17 December

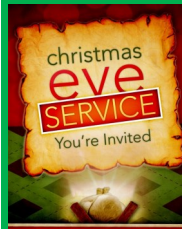
0900 - Eucharist II

The Rev. Emlyn Ott



Advent 4
24 December

0900 - Eucharist II



Christmas Eve

24 December

2100 (9pm)

Music begins at 2030 (8:30p)



25 December

1000 - Morning Prayer



30 December

1700 - Soup's On
(5pm)



31 December

Christmas 1 - 0900
Christmas Lessons & Carols