

REGENT OF THE SUN

Winter Edition, 2010-2011

“This is my Body which is given for you.”



Thoughts from the Rector

By Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC

Each year the beginning of Advent reminds me of December, 1979. It was on the twenty-first of December [the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle] that I was ordained to the priesthood in St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church. St. Uriel's choir sang at the Mass and the Rector, Canon Hulbert, was the homilist.

Every year [December 21], I celebrate a Mass on my anniversary to the priesthood. Last year was my 30th anniversary to the priesthood. At that time you may recall, we had a blizzard just two days prior to my anniversary Mass and yet, with the roads so horrendous, I was deeply touched with how many people attended the celebration.

Well, it is December and I am again reflecting on my spiritual journey in the Priesthood over these past 31 years. In particular, I have been contemplating the role of the priest. He is a human being, and yet he has been called to be an instrument of the sacred. Not an easy task. How is the priest to live in both worlds?

People like to see their priest as one of “us”; but when he is, he runs the risk of failing to be a priest to his people. Whenever the priest focuses on the sacred, he is often thought of as out of touch or not real.

Again the question arises, how does the priest balance his life in the world with the sacred? The only one to do that perfectly

was our Incarnate Lord. And yet, the priest is called to follow and emulate our Christ. The priest is called to be in *persona Christi*, the icon of Christ. As such, when at the altar celebrating Mass, he is in the person of Christ. This means that Christ has called the priest to be a living instrument in the work of salvation. It is a challenge for any priest to be that worthy icon of Christ, while allowing our humanness to be transparent.

Last year, at my anniversary Mass, Fr. Crothers gave me a book, “*The Priest is Not His Own*”, by Archbishop Bishop Fulton Sheen. The title makes it clear, that when the bishop lays hands on the ordinand and says these [Sec, **Rector**, *Continued on page 2*]

[**Rector**, *Continued from page 1*]

words, “Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to N.; fill him with grace and power, and make him a priest in your Church.” [B.C.P p. 533], the new priest no longer belongs to the world, but belongs to God. He is, in the words of the Archbishop, “Both priest and victim.” I find it ironic that man, the one whom God created in His image - the very ones who disobeyed, denied and crucified Him, should be the ones God calls to be priest. God did not call angels to be priests. None of the heavenly hosts of angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphims can be priests. How can they? They cannot be tempted nor can they experience pain and suffering as humans do. Bishop Sheen wrote, “But though a priest is like men, he must also be unlike them. He is withdrawn from among men, so that he may act in Christ’s name and appear as Christ to the world.” [*The Priest Is Not His Own*, p. 163].

This is what every priest must struggle with throughout their priesthood. Bishop Sheen asserts, “It is significant that the first one chosen by Jesus to be a Christian priest was given a new name to

represent his new character. He did not, however, lose his old name. Instead, he now had two names. He was, at one and the same time, Simon and Peter. Simon was his natural name; Peter was his vocation. As Simon, he was the son of Jona. As Peter, he was the priest of the Son of God. Peter never entirely got rid of Simon. But once called, Simon never ceased to be Peter. Sometimes it is Simon that rules; at other times, it is Peter.” [*The Priest Is Not His Own*, p.163].

It is an ongoing struggle that each priest must face. But, within the struggle, he strives to be genuine and loving as his blessed Lord. I have learned that the priest must pattern his mind and heart on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As Jesus’ commissioned Peter, “Peter, Feed my sheep” [John 21:17], so is the priest as shepherd called to feed the sheep and be both priest and victim for the people in his charge. For me, I would not have it any other way.

But what about the Priesthood of all believers. All of us, by virtue of Baptism belongs to the “Royal Priesthood of all believers” and I will address that topic in a later newsletter.

Outreach

A Ministry for the People of God

Results of Thanksgiving Food Drive:

I want to thank all those whose supported our Thanksgiving Food Drive. The parishioners really came through. Between the parish and the Shillelagh Club, the men of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew delivered almost 70 turkeys [it maybe more that that]. Dinners were delivered to a number of various food banks and drop off sites.

Christmas Tree Tags:

The “Advent” tree in the back of the Church was picked clean of Christmas tags for needy families. Becky is in touch with DYFS to get more tags for the tree.

Coat Drive:

We are continuing to collect coats for the Monmouth County Coat Drive and for Madonna House. A number of parishioners have gone to great lengths and even purchased new coats for the coat drive. In the midst of such economic turndown, you, the parishioners of St. Uriel's are doing a magnificent job in your most generous outreach! I know the Lord is pleased.

Madonna House:

Founded in 1987, Madonna House’s primary purposes is to serve infants, children and women



Ministry at Madonna House

Left to Right: Dave Kiely, Jack Brisben, Rebecca Blonski [Directress], Jeff Thorpe, John Muly, Steve Sroka.

through the distribution of free clothing, juvenile furniture, diapers and small household items, as well as any adolescent supplies. St. Uriel’s has supported Madonna House in the past with coats. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has taken a special interest in supporting the work of Madonna House. Recently, a number of the brethren went to Madonna House to do work that was needed and requested by the religious institution.



From the Bishops of New Jersey and Newark:

Statement on the Death of Tyler Clementi

Editor's note: While St. Uriel's will continue to give witness to the biblical position on human sexuality; no human being, regardless of their sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or anything else should be subject to bullying, harassment, or intimidation. Therefore, I believe that this epistle from our bishop should be shared with the entire parish.

**By The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith, Bishop of Newark
The Right Reverend George E. Cuncell, Bishop of New Jersey**

We write as Christian pastors who are privileged to serve as bishops of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark and in the Diocese of New Jersey in order to express our grief, alarm, compassion and outrage over the suicide of Tyler Clementi. We join our voices with the voices of all those concerned in Ridgewood, where Tyler grew up, at Rutgers University, where he was a freshman and across our nation. Another gay young person has died by suicide. This tragic loss of a promising life would appear to be directly related to an invasion of Tyler's privacy and a violation of his personal life. Much remains to be considered by law enforcement authorities and the courts in order to determine whether this is also a case of a bullying felony or a hate crime —

or a combination of the three. Whatever that legal determination may be, we join with other Christian and religious leaders, with the LGBT community and with all people of good will who take their stand against hatred, bigotry and bullying; against every expression of physical and verbal violence; and against any violation of the dignity of LGBT persons. When the rights of any — especially the members of vulnerable groups who have so often been scapegoated — are threatened, the rights of all are endangered.

We want to call attention to another, potentially deeper, issue here. It is the invasion of intimacy. Intimacy is a holy place within every human being; an innermost sanctuary where we develop our ultimate beliefs and values, nurture our closest relationships and maintain our deepest commitments. No one has the right to disclose that intimacy for someone else without consent. Such a violation is tantamount to the desecration of a sacred space. It is, in fact, a sacred space. It is the territory of the soul.

Technology, however, now provides tools to record, seize and disclose the most intimate matters of our lives without our consent.

Identities can be stolen, hearts broken and lives shattered. Technology has placed powerful tools in human hands. Will they be used for building-up or for breaking down our neighbor? Tyler Clementi's death certainly poses some important legal issues, but it also raises some critical moral concerns. Hubris has outstripped humility. And that is a serious problem. We can do better. We must do better, with God's help.

In our Episcopal tradition, whenever we reaffirm our faith in worship, we are given a challenging question: "will you respect the dignity of every human being?" And we answer, "I will, with God's help." It is an important commitment. Whatever our religious tradition, we can agree on the need to respect one another's dignity. With God's help, we can stand together and stand up against bullies who would damage and destroy the lives of LGBT persons, their partners and families and friends. With God's help, we can offer safety, support and sanctuary to all LGBT persons who are at risk. With God's help, we can remind our society that every LGBT person is made in the image of God. The world needs our witness.

Intention Cards

Intention Cards:

2010: 69 Intention Cards
Total: \$113,784

2011: 57 Intention Cards
Total: \$100,635
Number of Cards Down: 26%
Dollars down: 17%

17% behind the dollars pledged for 2010. I believe the parish will come through and top 2010's figures. Adrienne, our Parish Administrator, has indicated to me that in 2010 we were still receiving intention cards as late as February. Because parishioners are supporting the parish financially this early in our stewardship drive, she is cautiously optimistic that we can beat 2010 numbers because the present figures are of November 30.

As you can see we need 18 more intention cards to *break even* with 2010. To this point for 2011, we are

The Lord's Prayer

What did they do to my Doxology?

By Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC

In Lent of 2010 we sung the Byzantine version of the “Kontakion” to the Lord’s Prayer and we are singing it again in Advent. A Kontakion is simply type of thematic hymn in the Orthodox Church and other Eastern Christian churches. In this version of the Lord’s Prayer there is no doxology and so I have been asked, “Why is there no doxology to the Lord’s Prayer? Most people associate the “Roman” version of the Lord’s Prayer as the one that does not conclude with the “doxology” - “...for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Actually, the “Our Father” is contained twice in the Bible (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4) with no doxology, for although very ancient, it is not found in the original manuscripts. The doxology is a prayer from the believers in the early centuries of the Church whose spirits were moved by the Holy Spirit to close this magnificent prayer with glory to God.

Let’s first look at how the prayer was originally constructed. Very simply stated, the Lord’s Prayer begins with our address to God by calling him, “Abba - Father”. The *first section* brings us into the divine presence of God. The *second section* of the Lord’s Prayer is comprised of several petitions; seven in Matthew’s Gospel and five in Luke’s Gospel. I have listed the seven from Matthew.

1. Hallowed be thy Name
2. Thy Kingdom come
3. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven
4. Give us this day our daily bread
5. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespasses against us.

6. Lead us not into temptation
7. Deliver us from evil.

The *third section* of the Lord’s Prayer is the doxology. Here is restored to God the three titles of kingship, power, and glory. But where did this doxology come from? Was it part of our Lord’s original prayer, or was it inserted by the Church at a later time?

The original Greek Scriptural text did not include the doxology at the end of the prayer. In the very early life of the Church, we discover that in the *Didache* [written between 70-140AD] the liturgical use of the doxology has been added to the Lord’s Prayer. This tradition of the doxology was carried into the Liturgy, and became so closely associated with the Lord’s Prayer that it is now often mistaken to be part of the prayer itself.

Presently, there are a number of Anglican liturgies which uses the Lord’s Prayer, but does *not* incorporate the doxology at the end of the prayer. The Anglican liturgy of “Last Rites” and “Stations of the Cross” are such examples of this. And so, in Lent and in Advent, at the sung Masses we have been using the Kontakion [Byzantine] version of the Lord’s Prayer, which follows closely to the original Greek text found in both Matthew and Luke’s Gospels.

Tertullian writes, “*The Lord’s Prayer is truly the summer of the whole gospel.*”

From the Desk of Beck Latham

Youth and Family Ministries

By Becky Latham

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Is. 9:6 I really love this time of year. Driving around town slowly seeing the lights start to go up and the nativity scenes in the stores and yards gives me great hope. People also seem to be more giving and filled with joy, this time of the year. Everyone is in a hustle bustle lifestyle but, during this time we need to pause and think about Christmas and what it means in our own lives. This to me is also a contemplative season that encourages me to slow down, to reflect, to remember, and to look ahead in anticipation. I mean think about what we are celebrating; the birth of our savior. That is a big deal. You can’t think about the birth of Christ without thinking about who Christ is, His death, and what that means for our lives. Without Christmas we would still be living

in the Old Testament ways trying to make up for our own sins but never really being able to do that fully without God. We needed Christ to be born and that is not something that should be taken lightly. That is something that I really want to impress on the youth this Christmas season. They should not lose sight of Jesus and to learn to be so very happy that God has sent us His son to die for our sins. I think that those are some good reasons to love this time of the year. I have loved getting to know the kids in the youth group. We participated in the holiday bazaar which went well. Sunday December 5th we had our pork roll, egg, and cheese Sunday. This month we are going to be looking at the Christmas story in the bible and learning more about the Christmas season through that. I am really excited to see how God is going to work through our group over the next month.



The Brotherhood of St. Andrews

Recommitment to Christ and His Church



Pictured: Seventeen members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew were able to attend Mass and recommit themselves to Christ and His Church.

As the Brotherhood approached our second Anniversary, we reflected on the accomplishments of the past year. We began with a Mass on November 30, the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. Those brethren who were able to attend the Mass, renewed their commitment to Christ and His Church in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Our monthly meetings begin with some social time and dinner. If the weather is nice, we have a cookout. The meeting portion begins at 7:00pm with simple evening devotions. One of the brethren may do a short reading and will then give a simple witness in how the Lord is working in the person's life. Then we conduct the business end of the meeting with a Treasurer's Report and, the planning for upcoming projects. Our meetings finish around 8:00pm. It is always encouraging to spend time with other brothers to laugh, share a meal and share some time in the Lord.

In addition to prayer and study, we are active in outreach as our vocation for service. Once a month, the Brothers are committed to providing support to St Mary by the Sea, Point Pleasant in service to the "Soup Lunch" program at Trinity Church, Asbury Park. Over 200 hot lunches are served each Saturday.

Through the generosity of so many parishioners, money, food, and other gifts are collected for our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. These donations are pack and mailed [approximately 6 to 12 boxes] to our troops. These gifts of love give both

comfort and are necessities which helps to bring a little bit of home to our troops. The packages go out about every month.

We are currently assisting the youth group in the collection and ultimate distribution of winter coats. In November, 50 coats that were donated by parishioners were delivered to Madonna House [the old Frank and Betty's toy store on Route 35 in Neptune]. Also in November, was delivered 30 bags of food items donated by the St Uriel family and designated for the Manasquan Ministerium Food Pantry.

With the food items donated for Thanksgiving, together with what was provided by the "Sons of the Shillelagh", the Brotherhood had approximately seventy turkeys with all the trimmings to distribute for Thanksgiving. In addition to several local families, 4 were delivered to the Madonna House, 8 went to the West Belmar Methodist Church. The rest were taken to the Monmouth/Ocean County food bank where it was dispersed to those in desperate need.

Six of the brothers went to the aid of the director of Madonna House early December to assist in their preparation for Christmas. New toys which have been donated throughout the year and stored needed to be moved out of storage for sorting. It is anticipated that approximately 600 toys will be distributed by Madonna House this Christmas.

Just a little more about Madonna House. The Madonna House is a local independent non profit charity which provides first and foremost for the needs of children. Parents and guardians also benefit from the generosity of Madonna House.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas and give thanks for His many blessings, let us continue to remember those who are in need, not only this time of the year, but throughout the year. As we share our blessings through the exchange of gifts this Christmas, perhaps we can keep in mind those who might benefit from those items of clothing and/or toys which may no longer be needed. The clothes your Children/Grandchildren outgrow, or those toys they no longer play with can be the source of much happiness for the Children of Madonna House. Parishioners may also wish to take any of these items to Madonna House. Just ask for Rebecca.

Men's Retreat: January 7-9, 2011

Calling all men of St. Uriel's, we have been invite to join the men of Christ Church, Woodbury on their annual men's retreat at St. Joseph of the Hills retreat House in Malvern, PA. Please join in us on this spiritual journey among the rolling hills and breathtaking scenery at Malvern Retreat House. Activities include seminars, Stations of the Cross [outside] daily Mass, worship, etc... You can do all the activities, or just enjoy a relaxing weekend of quiet reflection among the mighty maples, oaks, and ash trees. Everyone gets a private room, and three wonderful meals a day. If your interested please call or e-mail Fr. Russ at 732-449-6173 or e-mail rag53@optonline.net. Website for the men's retreat <http://www.malvernretreat.com/sample.htm>.

Introductory Training for Prayer Teams

Praying Effectively in Five Minutes

God uses ordinary people, believers in Jesus, to bring His healing love. It is a great privilege to be used by the Lord to pray for others. Praying effectively in five minutes is possible in numerous settings.

I have discovered over these many years that individuals want prayer for spiritual, physical or emotional healing. The request for prayer and intercession in our parish grows regularly. I have met with people after Sunday Mass where people have asked me to pray for some particular need. At the altar rail, before the Sacrament we kneel and pray.

Our intercession list continues to grow as parishioners have the need for prayer. At Wednesday Mass, more and more

people are articulating their prayer needs. It is essential that every parish should be a “healing” parish. The name of Jesus in Hebrew means, “God heals” as well as “God saves”. Jesus came to heal and to save, and as an expression of God’s love, to bridge the gap between God and mankind.

As the need for prayer continue to grow, so does the need to train people to pray for others effectively in five minutes. On Saturday, January 15, through Christian Healing Ministries, we will be offering Their Foundations Course Number 2, Introductory Training for Prayer Teams. This is a one day basic course on healing and praying for one another. This course focuses on the practical application of prayer ministry.

TRAINING FOR PRAYER TEAMS

“How to Pray effectively in 5 minutes” workshop

The Order of St. Luke the Physician will be sponsoring a workshop entitled “How to pray effectively in 5 minutes”. This workshop was developed by Christian Healing Ministries (CHM) founded by Francis MacNutt and located in Jacksonville, Florida. CHM states that this course is a must for every church wanting to begin basic prayer team ministry. It is a very introductory, simple teaching on healing and praying for one another in churches, altar ministry, home and hospital visitations, or any small group setting. It covers basic teachings on such topics as the Biblical background for healing prayer, the types of healing (spiritual, physical and emotional), forgiveness, how to minister in teams, the laying on of hands, and expectations and faith. This course focuses on the practical application of prayer ministry. You do not have to be a member of OSL in order to participate.

In the afternoon session, the Rev’d Joseph and Marjory Parillo will be our guests presenters. Margie is a licensed therapist (LCSW) in part time private practice. In addition, she and her husband are both pastors ministering the Gospel in the marketplace through their business, The Barbaric Bean, a coffee Bar in Ocean Grove.

- Where:** Church of St. Uriel the Archangel [Hulbert Hall]
219 Philadelphia Blvd.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750
[732] 449-6173 [Pre-registration Preferred]
- When:** Saturday, January 15, 2011
- Times:** 9am - 4:00pm
- Presenters:** Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC,
Cynthia Griffin
The Rev’d Joseph Parillo
Marjory Parillo, LCSW
- Cost:** \$10.00

Pictured at Left: Bishop Councill, Clergy of St. Uriel's, Confirmation Class and sponsors.

Pictured at Right: Some of our children with their Sunday Advent wreath.



News Briefs Around the Parish

Christmas Eve Mass Notice:

Over the years, many parishes of have seen a decline in number of attendees at the traditional "Midnight" Mass. For one reason, the early Mass at 5:00pm has become by far the most heavily attended Mass. This year, the traditional "Midnight" at St. Uriel's will begin at **10:00pm**. The late Mass is a wonderful tradition which many parishioners still continue to enjoy. That being the case, at St. Uriel's we will continue to offer this Mass each year. By moving this liturgy up to 10:00pm, it will afford the opportunity for people to attend who otherwise would not be able to.

First Communion Class to Be Offered:

First Communion Classes will begin in February 19th. Candidates for First Communion need to be *nearing* their 7th birthday. A requirement is that parents will need to undergo instruction in Eucharistic theology which will be taught by the Rector. Those parents who have already had a child go through the First Communion course will not be required to take the adult session. Those parents

interested in having their child receive first communion should contact the Rector. There will also be a signup list posted in the hallway next to Hulbert Hall. The candidates for first communion will receive the Sacrament for the first time at the Easter Vigil on April 23.

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2011.

6:00pm Mass

7:00pm Meeting

Election of new members to Vestry and Diocesan Convention. Anyone who may feel called to serve in one of the positions should speak to the Rector.

Episcopal Visitation

On the Vigil of All Saints, October 31, Bishop Councill administered the Rite of Confirmation to Kevin Hoffman, Theresa Jurewicz, Katherine Knipple, Sarah Kurtz, James Ransom, Victoria Webster. Fred Hand, and Eric Clauburg was received in to the Anglican Communion from the Roman Catholic Church.

Upcoming Liturgies and Events

Immaculate Conception

9:30am, Wednesday – December 8, **Mass**

Third Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Saturday – December 11, **Mass**
Sunday – December 12, 8:00am and 9:30am **Mass**

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

7:00pm, Tuesday, December 21 - **Mass**

Christmas Eve

Friday - December 24
5:00pm **Mass** and 10:00pm **Mass**

Christmas Day

Saturday - December 25, 10:00am, **Mass**

Christmas Flowers

Please send or bring Flower Memorials to St. Uriel's no later than Friday, December 17th.

First Sunday after Christmas Day / Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday - December 26, 2010
8:00am, 9:30am **Masses**

Holy Name of Jesus/Mary Mother of God

9:30am Saturday - January 1, 2011, **Mass**

The Feast of the Epiphany

9:30am, Thursday - January 6, 2011, **Mass**

Baptism of our Lord

Sunday - January 9, 2011
8:00am and 9:30am **Mass**

Seminar: Introductory Training For Prayer Teams

9:00am - 4:00pm Saturday, January 15
Cost: \$10.00

Presenters: Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC
Cynthia D. Griffin

The Rev'd Joseph and Marjory Porillo [LCSW]

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2011
6:00pm, Mass - 7:00pm Meeting

Confessions:

Contact Fr. Griffin for appointment.