

The Messenger

October 2007



FROM THE
RECTOR

"Wealth, after all, is a relative thing since he that has little and wants less is richer than he that has much and wants more."

- Charles Caleb Colton



Dear Friends,

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. We commemorate St. Francis each year with the blessing of the animals, which this year will follow the 10am service on Sunday, October 7th. People are invited to bring their pets, a photo of their pet, or their favorite stuffed animal to church that day. This is a day on which we hold up for God's blessing the little creatures that are near and dear to us.

Francis lived from 1182-1226 in the little town, Assisi, which is in central Italy. His father was a merchant, whose wealth provided a life of comfort and luxury to his family. Francis's view of life changed dramatically after he was injured in a war. To the dismay of his family, Francis gave up his claim to the great riches of his family, and came to devote his life to the poor. He grew into a spirituality that rejoiced in the simplicity of life and the wonders of the created world.

One way to honor Francis is to take time to reflect upon how we live out our faith in relationship to material possessions. One has only to visit the church in Assisi that stands today in honor of Francis to affirm that our spirituality does not demand a life of austerity. But at the same time, when gazing at the frescoes that depict Francis renouncing his worldly possessions, one cannot help but recognize that often we are burdened by having too many things.

Francis is a patron saint for those who are in search of way to "simplify" their lives. We do well to heed the words of the Prophet Isaiah "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food." (Is. 55:2)

Yours in Christ,

Vicki

THE MEANING OF ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day falls each year on November 1st, a date it has occupied on the liturgical calendar since the ninth century. At this time, the Church recalls faithful witnesses of the past. It is a reminder to all of us that we live in the communion of the saints. That is to say that in the present time our lives are intertwined with those who have lived before us.

In the New Testament understanding, a "saint" is one who has been baptized in to a life with Christ. It is through Christ that the here and now intersects with the beyond and the eternal. This feast day provides the opportunity to reassure children that loved ones who have died continue in a life that is more glorious than we can come to know during our time on this earth.

Many of us experience the death of a family member or a friend during the years of childhood. It is important that children understand that life eternal is not a reward for good behavior, but that it is available to each person through the love that God has for all of us.

All Saints' Day provides an opportunity to affirm with our children our love for them in their failures as well as their successes. When they receive that from us, they will understand what it means to speak of a God who loves unconditionally.

BISHOP'S VISIT



Sunday, October 21st

Single service at 10:00 a.m.

*Celebrate 50 Years of Ministry
at Incarnation*

Honor three Confirmands

Reception following the service

SHARING OUR GIFTS

It was my hope for the sabbatical was that this would be a time in which people would come forward offering gifts for ministry that would continue beyond the sabbatical time. That has proven to be the case.

Our Lay Pastoral Care Team comprised of *Tod Timmel, Cork Dinan, Andy Johnson and Bob Dobbins* are continuing to visit with people who are not able to make it to church.

The Rev. Miriam Owens will be preaching and celebrating the Eucharist on a monthly basis. We are truly blessed by her willingness to share these gifts for ministry with us. This will give me the opportunity to spend time with the Church School one Sunday out of the month and for the adult congregation to take in the wisdom and insight that Miriam brings to our worshipping congregation.

- Vicki Prescott

HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween has its origin in pagan celebrations that took place in the autumn - that time of year when it appears that everything is dying. Christian culture has incorporated it into the holy day that commemorates those who have died. After darkness falls on the night of October 31, we walk along sidewalks, our feet crunching the fallen leaves, hoping that with the light that shines in each house there will be a gift of something sweet.

During this time of year the nights are long; the cold chills our bones; the fields are barren; all seems to be lifeless. But in the darkness and the cold we look for the glimmer that will lead us to God. We cannot see the light without the darkness.

Halloween is a festival that invites children and adults alike to look into dark places. It encourages us to let the musings of the imagination be light to guide us through the darkness of fear and sorrow. The demons of the souls are given shape and form so that they can be engaged in a safe and playful manner.

Children sometimes feel fearful without knowing what they are afraid of. Halloween gives them a time for "playing" with those things that in the normal course of things they cannot acknowledge. Perhaps that is why many of us never outgrow our fascination with this special day.



Save the Date!

The Stewardship Committee & the Wardens of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation are pleased to invite the Church Family to attend

The 2nd Annual In-House Cottage Meeting

Sunday, October 28th, 2007
One service at 10 a.m.

2008 Stewardship Campaign
"The Road to Joyful Giving"

Celebration Brunch following the service

IMPORTANT PARISH DATES:

- Oct 5 Drive-thru Pulled Pork BBQ – 4:30 p.m.
- Oct 7 Blessing of the Animals held immediately following the 10 a.m. service
- TBD Fall Clean-Up Day at Incarnation
- Oct 14 Rev. Miriam Owens to preach
- Oct 21 BISHOP'S VISIT** - one service at 10am
Celebration of 50 years of ministry at Incarnation; three Confirmations; Family service (no church school)
- Oct 28 Stewardship Meeting** - one service 10am
Brunch following service

SAVE THE DATE:

- Nov 2-3 Diocesan Convention
- Nov 4 All Saints' Sunday
Chili Cook-Off – 5-7 p.m.
"Fall Back" - Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 11 Rev. Miriam Owens to preach
- Nov 17 Taize Retreat, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- Nov 25 Family Service & Baptism at 10 a.m.



PARISH & COMMUNITY NOTES

- ✓ Congratulations to **David Evans** for placing first in second singles at the Monroe County East JV Tournament over the summer. David plays with the Penfield junior varsity tennis team.
- ✓ We welcome newly baptized into our community: **Dylan Ernest Ryder**, and warm congratulations to their parents, Kristen and Randy Ryder, and grandparents, Pam and Ron Simmons.
- ✓ Congratulations to **Andrew Melnick** for receiving the Larry H. Clarke Jr. Award for Entrepreneurship. Students are nominated by their home and careers skills teachers for work done during the Entrepreneurship Unit in their class. Way to go, Andrew!
- ✓ Thank you to **Bud Baumer & John Wilder** for the generous amount of time and labor they put into upgrading the electrical wiring here at the church.
- ✓ Belated congratulations to **Megan Miraglia**, who graduated with honors from SUNY Oneonta in May. At graduation she received the award of Outstanding Dietetics Student and Oneonta's Best and Brightest Award for outstanding scholarship and service. She is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. Megan will pursue her master's degree at Tufts University.



DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Diocesan Convention will be held on *November 2nd-3rd* at the Hyatt Regency Rochester. Incarnation's Diocesan Delegates are *Greg Clevenger, Bray Manchester and Tom Marullo*. Alternate delegates are *Heather Melnick and Brian Mitchell*.

Convention includes eight workshops that are open to anyone in the diocese. The workshops are free of charge and run from 2:00-3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 2nd. A description of the workshops can be found on the Diocesan website (www.rochesterepiscopaldiocese.org) and on the bulletin board in the church lobby.

If you are interested in attending a workshop, please complete a registration form and return it to the Diocese. **Registration deadline is October 19th**.

DIOCESAN NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Diocesan Nominating Committee is hard at work in search of a replacement for Bishop McKelvey when he retires in 2008. Below is a copy of their most recent report to the Diocese.

At the end of a two-day retreat in early July, the Nominating Committee broke into 4 subgroups to conduct in-depth telephone interviews with the remaining list of candidates. Once these interviews were completed, the full committee met to discuss the results on August 15th. The group of candidates was further refined. We have begun the compulsory background check process on these remaining candidates.

The full committee met again on August 22nd to plan the next steps in the process – actual on-site face-to-face interviews with the candidates and bringing each candidate to the diocese for a meeting with the entire Nominating Committee. Teams of four committee members will set out to interview each candidate at his or her current location. These visits are presently being arranged and will take place before October 15th.

As we near the end of the process of presenting a slate of nominees, the remaining candidates will be brought to Rochester in early November so that every member of the Nominating Committee may meet them personally.

Members of the Nominating Committee will be present at fall district meetings to answer questions about the process and our progress. As we approach this important stage, we request the continued prayers of everyone in the diocese for our members and their work, the selection process and all of the candidates.

TAIZE SILENT RETREAT

Saturday, November 17th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

What is it?

The day's format is one of quiet prayer, Taize music,

Scripture readings, readings from Brother Roger's works, silent time and sharing. If you would like to learn more about the retreat, contact Ken Hendel at 381-9769. You can also visit the Taize website at www.taize.fr

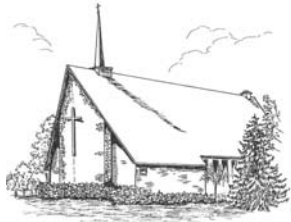
Cost

Free - no charge! Lunch will be provided. All that is asked for is your time.

To sign up

Please see the brochures at the back of the Church, the sheet on bulletin board, or call the Church Office (586-7860).





INCARNATION'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee was appointed at the September 18th Vestry meeting. It is comprised of the Rector, the Wardens (Peter Melnick and Judy Masten), and three Vestry members whose terms expire in January 2007 (Greg Clevenger, John Marshall and Mike Povio). The Committee Chair is Peter Melnick.

The Committee will be electing a new Warden, three new Vestry members, and a Delegate to Convention this year.

Please give thought to people whom you would like the committee to consider. Be aware that **these are not nominations, but people whom you would like the committee to consider.** Suggestions may be given to any member of the Nominating Committee for their consideration.

Qualification for Vestry are as follows:

- baptized member of the congregation for at least one year; at least 18 years old;
- regular participation in worship and parish activities;
- pledging member of the parish;
- commitment to the vision of the ministry of the parish;
- works well with people;
- listens to concerns of entire parish and works through Vestry process to achieve goals set by the Vestry.



All Saints' Day is a special time in the church year for remembering our loved ones who have died. These persons may be family

members or special persons who have brought us closer to Christ. At our 8 & 10 a. m. services on *November 5th*, we will pray by name for members of our parish who died in the past year and for those whose funerals or memorial services were held at Incarnation. The service bulletin will also list other loved ones whose names have been submitted by parishioners. You will find Prayer Request Forms in inserted in the October bulletins. **Please return completed forms to the church office by Nov. 1st.**



ASK
THE
RECTOR

What do we mean when we say in the Nicene Creed "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church"?

The Nicene Creed was formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325. This council was called by Constantine for the purpose of defining a normative doctrine for Christians throughout the empire.

The phrase "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" points to our life in Christ. It does not claim that the Church has reached perfection in these things.

To say that we are "one" Church does not deny the divisions that exist within Christianity, but it does point to our "oneness" in Christ. "Holiness" does not imply moral perfection; it means that we recognize that we belong to God. "Catholic" refers to the universal and inclusive nature of our life in Christ. "Apostolic" means that we follow in the ways of the Apostles in that we ground our faith in the teachings and ministry of Jesus and in his death and resurrection.

The Anglican theologian Richard Norris points out that the creeds of the Church are a form of self commitment. He says "they are not infallible, but they are reliable" and that they are words that give us access to a relationship with God.

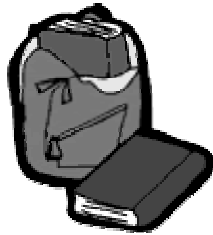


CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Back by popular demand... this year's Christmas Pageant will be held on *Sunday, Dec. 16th* during the 10am service. It will be basically the same as last year's, with a similar rehearsal schedule. As always, all children are encouraged to participate - we're looking forward to working with everyone again! If you'd like to help out, or have any questions, please contact Sherry McCarthy (242-9840 – mccarthy95@hotmail.com) or Sarah Cegelski (249-9538 – scegelsk@rochester.rr.com).

ESWA 'BACK TO SCHOOL' CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!!!

In September our congregation took on the task of buying new outfits for 25 school-age children. We were given sizes and I.D. numbers by Mark Horn from the Eastern Service Workers Association. Each child received up to five new items. We did very well with this "Back to School" campaign. We accumulated over a hundred and fifty items! We were able to supply the ESWA with all the items requested minus seven pairs of sneakers. In addition to the new clothes, we were able to fill a rather large cardboard box with backpacks and school supplies. The generosity of our congregation was amazing!! The vestry also joined in by supplying over 60 pairs of underwear. In a recent message from Mark Horn, Program Coordinator at ESWA, he said he wanted to thank us and make sure that we understood what a big difference our contributions made for a lot of families.



- *Judy Masten, Jr. Warden*



Congratulations on the birth of
Joseph Anthony Benson

Wednesday, September 5, 2007
8 lbs. 11 oz. 21.5" long

He joins proud parents Paul & Debra Benson,
and big sister Lauren

Prayer of St. Francis
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



St. Francis, pray for us

**St. Francis
Day**

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE

If you have purchased something for the church for which you need to be reimbursed, please complete the following steps:

- 1.) Fill out the top four lines of a pink "Disbursement Record" form. The forms are kept in a clear pink plastic folder *in the Assistant Treasurer's mail folder* outside the church office.
- 2.) Attach an original receipt, detailing the items purchased.
- 3.) Place completed pink form with attached receipt in Assistant Treasurer's mail folder.
- 4.) A check will be written as soon as possible and mailed or delivered to you.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in following this procedure.

- *Janet Seabridge, Parish Administrator*



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sweet Potato and Apple Bake

4 medium sweet potatoes
2 apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
1 small onion, chopped
¼ cup light brown sugar, packed
½ tsp dried marjoram
2 Tbsp butter
1/3 cup water
3 Tbsp lemon juice
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Boil sweet potatoes in salted water for 30 to 40 minutes, until tender. Drain, cool, peel, and cut into 1/4-inch slices. Arrange half of the sliced sweet potatoes and half of the sliced apples in a 1 1/2-quart shallow baking dish.

Sprinkle with onion, brown sugar, and marjoram; dot with butter.

Arrange remaining sweet potato and apple slices in the baking dish. Combine water with lemon juice; pour over layer of sweet potatoes and apples. Sprinkle cheese over top. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serves 4.

- *submitted by Meg Godly (who says 'Hello' to all!)*