

# Easter & Holy Week at Grace

## See the Full Schedule on Page 7



**MARCH ~ APRIL 2009**

The Rev. Richard A. Maxwell, Rector  
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
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# DEAR FRIENDS

By Fr. RICHARD A. MAXWELL  
Rector

Spring is a-comin'! As I write this it's a blustery February day, and I'm told that more snow will come before the end of the month. But walking around Parkville earlier today, I noticed a few signs of spring beginning to appear. I had to look closely, but here and there I spotted the green leaves of early spring flowers beginning to push themselves out of the ground, merrily greeting me. Looking carefully at the trees, I saw that some of them have buds beginning to swell, boasting about the blossoms and leaves that will soon appear. And the forsythia was teasing me, canes swaying in the breeze, whispering about the explosion of yellow flowers that will soon occur. New life!

Easter is a-comin', too! This great feast of all feasts, when we celebrate the gift of our salvation given to us through Jesus Christ, will soon be here. This feast of the Resurrection is also a promise of new life for us. When we are baptized into the Body of Christ, we are reborn. And each Easter we not only celebrate this promise of new and eternal life, but renew our baptismal vows, experiencing a spiritual springtime. New life!

Of course, it IS still February . . . and as I've mentioned, I know that winter may not be through with us. It will probably get cold again; we may even have another snow storm. Like the weather, there are seasons to our spiritual lives. Winter has not left us completely, and sin has not finished with us yet, either. We are still human. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, despite our best intentions, yet again we will not do what we want, but will do the very thing we hate. We will sin again.

HOWEVER, the promise of spring, the promise of Easter, the promise of Jesus Christ is that new life will prevail, forgiveness will prevail, and eternal salvation will be ours. So, when the weather turns bad, remember that it will not last and look forward to warm and sunny days. As we slog through Lent together, remember that the joy of Easter is coming. And when we sin, remember that evil can never triumph and repent and look forward to the arrival of the new Jerusalem, God's Kingdom on earth.

Happy spring! Happy Easter! See you in church!

Max+

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## Grace Episcopal Church

55 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Rev. Richard Anderson Maxwell, *Rector*

The Rev. Gary Mongillo, *Deacon*

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Senior Associate Priest*

The Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Pokorny, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Dennis Kane, *Verger*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

## Parish Leaders Take Office



**THE PILLARS OF GRACE:** Joining the Rector are the members of Grace Church continuing in office or elected at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 25, 2009.

They are (left to right) PAUL KLINE (Delegate to Convention and Deanery), CHARLES MORSE (Vestry Class of 2010), CAROL LARCO-MURZYN (Vestry Class of 2012), JOHN PRYOR (in front, Vestry Class of 2012), JIM SHAFER (in back, Vestry Class of 2011), SANDRA MORGAN (Vestry Class of 2010), ROB DUNCAN (Senior Warden), EUNICE LYMAN (Assistant Treasurer), BARBARA REZNER (Alternate Delegate to Convention and Deanery), JANET MAROTTO (Parish Clerk), BILL PASCUCCI (Junior Warden), FR. MAXWELL (Rector), ELAINE PHILLIPS (Treasurer), and ELIZABETH MACKIERNAN MIEL (Vestry Class of 2011).

Thursdays in Lent

## The Consideration and Development Of a Rule of Life

This Lent, Fr. Maxwell leads a program to help individuals consider where they are in their Christian walk. He will examine the 5 promises made in Baptism and consider how they might be a guide in creating personal rules of life for ourselves. No participant will be required to write down anything or to share their personal rules. The evenings begin with a Low Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel, followed by a light supper at 6:00 p.m. in Nason Hall. Discussion starts at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend all or any portion of each evening.

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Fridays in Lent

## Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Each Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m. there will be Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church.

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Informal Meeting: Sunday, March 15

## “Love One Another As I have Loved You”

Every Sunday I say the summary of the Law, “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind” and the second is like unto it: “Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.” This is what the whole of the Bible teaches; this is what our Lord has taught by word and example. So how do we love God and our neighbor? One way is by reaching out to those who need to know God loves them and that there are people who care about them.

Grace church does this well with the food pantry and the love that is spread with the Christmas gifts. I would like for us to see if there are other outreach ministries that we are called to do in our area or, if God wills, maybe even outside our area: we shall be open to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

For those interested in this ministry I will hold an informal meeting after Mass on March 15<sup>th</sup> to listen to ideas and to present some thoughts on what we might be called to do; May God give you His Peace.

Deacon Gary+

Saturday, March 21, 2009

## Lenten Quiet Day

### “Sacred Work for Anxious Times”

Recharge your spiritual batteries at a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. through lunch. Joanne Neel-Richard – priest of this diocese, icon writer, therapist, and retreat leader – will lead this morning of meditation, prayer, and reflection. This quiet day is sponsored jointly with St. John’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford, which is where the Quiet Day will take place. There is no charge for this event, but please register in advance so that the proper number of lunches can be prepared. Speak to Fr. Maxwell if you have any questions.

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Each Sunday through March 22

## Inquirer’s Class Continues

The “Inquirer’s Class” begun by Fr. Richard A. Maxwell in January continues each Sunday through March 29. This is a class for people new to the Episcopal Church and for long-time Episcopalians who have questions about some of the "basics" or want a "refresher." Attending the class does not commit anyone to anything, and people may pick and choose, coming to classes which interest them and not to others.

However, this IS the class that will prepare those baptized in other faith traditions for Reception into the Episcopal Church. It also will prepare Episcopalians who have not yet been confirmed for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is timed to prepare individuals to qualify for the spring Confirmation/Reception service for the Hartford deanery which will be held April 25, 2009, at St. James' Church in West Hartford.

Fr. Max conducts the class in his office at noon following coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the dates listed below. Each class takes approximately one hour and is largely a "lecture" class and not a discussion hour. He tries to make time at the end of each session for questions. This is the schedule for the remaining classes in this series:

March 1 -- The Book of Common Prayer

March 8 -- What We Believe

March 22--Anglo-Catholicism and Contemporary Church Issues

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

# Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord

**Solemn High Mass, 6:00 p.m.**

**Potluck Supper following in Nason Hall**

The feast of the Annunciation commemorates how God made known to a young Jewish woman that she was to be the mother of his Son, and how Mary accepted her vocation with perfect conformity of will. It has been said, “God made us without us, and redeemed us without us, but cannot save us without us.” Mary’s assent to Gabriel’s message opened the way for God to accomplish the salvation of the world. It is for this reason that all generations are to call her “blessed.”

The Annunciation has been a major theme in Christian art, in both East and West. Innumerable sermons and poems have been composed about it. The term coined by Cyril of Jerusalem for the Blessed Virgin, *Theotokos* (“the God-bearer”), was affirmed by the General Council of Ephesus in 451.

Mary’s self-offering in response to God’s call has been compared to that of Abraham, the father of believers. Just as Abraham was called to be the father of the chosen people, and accepted his call, so Mary was called to be the mother of the faithful, the new Israel. She is God’s human agent in the mystery of the Incarnation. Her response to the angel, “Let it be to me according to your word,” is identical with the faith expressed in the prayer that Jesus taught, “Your will be done on earth as in heaven.” Gerard Manley Hopkins, comparing Mary to the air we breathe, writes:

Wild air, world-mothering air . . .  
Of her flesh he took flesh:  
He does take fresh and fresh,  
Though much the mystery how,  
Not flesh but spirit now,  
And makes, O marvellous!  
New Nazareths in us,  
Where she shall yet conceive  
Him, morning, noon, and eve,  
New Bethlems, and he born  
There, evening, noon, and morn —

(The above is taken from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006*, published by Church Publishing, p. 212.)

# Holy Week Masses and Activities

## **Palm Sunday, April 5 ~ Sunday of the Passion**

Distribution of the palms at both services

**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass

**10:30 a.m.:** Gather on the Grace Street porch

Blessing of the palms and procession

Solemn High Mass with reading of the Passion according to St. Mark

## **Monday in Holy Week, April 6**

**5:30 p.m.:** Low Mass in the Chapel

## **Tuesday in Holy Week, April 7**

**5:30 p.m.:** Low Mass in the Chapel

**7:00 p.m.:** Contemplative Prayer Group

## **Wednesday in Holy Week, April 8**

**7:15 a.m.:** Low Mass in the Chapel

**4:00 p.m.:** “A Place of Grace” pantry packing

**7:00 p.m.:** Office of Tenebrae

## **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

**9:00-11:00 a.m.:** “A Place of Grace” food distribution

**6:00 p.m.:** Solemn High Mass

Followed by the stripping of the altar and “Night Watch” in the Chapel of Repose  
(Please sign up of a half-hour or more of devotion)

## **Good Friday, April 10**

**12:00 noon:** Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross

**4:00-6:00 p.m.:** Sacrament of Reconciliation of a Penitent  
(Appointments for Confession may be made with Fr. Maxwell)

**6:00 p.m.:** Stations of the Cross

**7:00 p.m.:** Choir Rehearsal

## **Saturday in Holy Week, April 11 ~ Easter Eve**

**9:30 a.m.:** Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday

**7:00 p.m.:** The Great Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter

Traditional lamb and baked ham dinner (\$15) following Mass in Nason Hall

(The meal is prepared by the choir and proceeds benefit the Russell Music Fund)

## **Easter Day, Sunday, April 12 ~ The Feast of the Resurrection**

**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass with hymns

**10:30 a.m.:** Solemn High Mass

With music for organ, strings, and choir

[featuring Haydn’s *Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*,  
“*Kleine Orgelmesse*” (“*Little Organ Mass*”)]

**Following the Mass:** Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

Charles F. J. Morse

## Profile of a Busy Volunteer

By ED KLEMONSKI



SHOWN at the main altar, CHARLIE MORSE stands in front of one of his special floral creations. He has been in charge of floral arrangements inside Grace Church for many years and orders the Easter flowers at the beginning of Lent to be certain to have what he needs to make each Easter so special. (Photo taken Feb. 18, 2009.)

Charlie Morse grew up in New York City, a stones' throw from the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. His father, the Rev. Donald Hartwell Morse, was Priest in Charge of Old Trinity Church, Wall Street, some 8 miles away by subway. Charlie attended the Cathedral school, became a choirboy, and learned church music there. Following graduation from Tufts University with a major in world history and English (Class of 1951) and a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, Charlie married Ellen — they had met at Tufts — and he moved to her home town of Manchester. He took a job with the *Hartford Courant* and joined Grace Church. The Rev. Frederick F. H. Nason was Rector. Charlie's father, a seminary

classmate of Fr. Nason, suggested the church. He stayed with the *Courant* for 38 years, and remains to this day a resident of Manchester and a member of Grace Church.

Charlie has held every job a lay person could hold at Grace Church — except (“thank God,” he says) treasurer. He was Senior Warden for 15 years during which the present Rectory was purchased. He served as chairman of every search committee selecting the past 3 rectors — Fathers Chamberlain, Rose, and Maxwell. He has also been delegate to convention, member of the standing committee, parish clerk, and junior warden. He has served so many terms on the vestry that he says, “I can’t remember when I wasn’t on the vestry.” He is an active member of the Parkville Classics committee, serves as an Acolyte and Chalice Bearer, and is in charge of the floral arrangements inside the church, year round.

At the *Courant*, he was a political reporter and columnist, starting during the era of Gov. John D. Lodge and retiring 38 years later during the term of Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. Charlie covered the General Assembly and attended lots of political conventions. He remembers the altercation during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago — he was just a few feet away — when Mayor Richard J. Daley confronted and uttered anti-Semitic slurs against then Connecticut Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff. The Mayor denied it but Charlie remembers his offensive words vividly.

Following retirement from the *Courant*, Charlie became a special assistant to Governor Weicker. His duties included drafting proclamations, writing speeches for the governor, answering mail, and acting as liaison with the press. He retired again when Weicker left office.

Charlie traces his love for flowers — vegetables are not his forte — to his mother. “She was very good with flowers,” he remembers, “and passed her love of them onto me.” He used to help James Ball, a professional florist, arrange the flowers at Grace. Following Jim’s death, Charlie took on the task. He sent himself to Washington National Cathedral for a week’s training. “They have 19 stations there,” he says, “with a huge staff and a big budget.” The experience was “the best training of all” and taught him the beauty of open arrangements and the use of natural materials.

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# March



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>March Notes</b> Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord (Wednesday, March 25 <sup>th</sup> ) – 6 p.m. Mass followed by potluck supper Thursday Gatherings in Lent (Thursday eves.) <i>The Consideration and Development of a Rule of Life</i> ~ 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by Soup & Bread Supper at 6 p.m., followed by discussion at 7 p.m. Inquirer's Class (Sundays, March 1st, 8th, & 22nd) following 10:30 a.m. mass ~12:00 noon Informal Outreach Ministries Meeting (Sunday, March 15 <sup>th</sup> ) following 10:30 a.m. mass ~12:00 noon Vestry Meeting (Sunday, March 29 <sup>th</sup> ) ~ 12:00 noon, Rector's Office Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament ~ Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group (March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> ) Education Hour (Sundays, 9:30 a.m.) Healing Mass (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.)					
	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Lent I 1</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Inquirer's Class	AA	AA	7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast	5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6:00 Supper 7 p.m. Gatherings	6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	
<b>Lent II 8</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Inquirer's Class	AA	AA	7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	9 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6:00 Supper 7 p.m. Gatherings	6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14
<b>Lent III 15</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Informal Outreach Ministries Meeting	AA	AA	7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	<b>Saint Joseph 19</b>  9 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6:00 Supper 7 p.m. Gatherings	<b>Spring 20</b>  6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9 a.m. thru Lunch <b>Lenten Quiet Day</b> St. John's, West Hartford 
<b>Lent IV 22 Refreshment Sunday</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Inquirer's Class	AA	AA	<b>Annunciation 25</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Packing 6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Potluck Supper	<b>26</b> 9 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6:00 Supper 7 p.m. Gatherings	<b>27</b> 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Brass and Silver Polishing
<b>Lent V 29 Passion Sunday</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Vestry Meeting	AA	AA				

# 2009



# April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><b>April Notes</b>            Parkville Classics ~ <i>Novi Cantori</i> (Saturday, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.)            Confirmation &amp; Reception (Saturday, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>) ~ St. James' Church, West Hartford            Stations of the Cross and Benediction ~ Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m. (no Benediction 4/10)            Vestry Meeting (Sunday, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>) ~ 12:00 noon, Rector's Office            Contemplative Prayer Group (Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>)            Education Hour (Sundays, 9:30 a.m.)            Healing Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.)</p>			<b>1</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast	<b>2</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6:00 Supper 7 p.m. Gatherings	<b>3</b> 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	
<b>Palm Sunday 5</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Procession & Solemn High Mass	<b>6</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	<b>7</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	<b>8</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Tenebrae	<b>Maundy Thursday 9</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Stripping of Altar and Night Watch	<b>†Good Friday† 10</b> 12 noon Good Friday Liturgy 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>Holy Saturday 11</b> 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 7 p.m. Easter Vigil Lamb Dinner	
<b>✠ EASTER ✠ SUNDAY 12</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 10:30 a.m. Festal Eucharist 	<b>Monday in 13 Easter Week</b> AA	<b>Tuesday in 14 Easter Week</b> 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass AA	<b>Wednesday in 15 Easter Week</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	<b>Thursday in 16 Easter Week</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	<b>Friday in 17 Easter Week</b>	<b>Saturday in 18 Easter Week</b>	
<b>Easter II 19 Low Sunday</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	<b>20</b> AA	<b>21</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	<b>22</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	<b>23</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	<b>24</b> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>✠ Confirmation &amp; Reception ✠ 25</b> St. James Church, West Hartford  7:30 p.m. Parkville Classics <i>Novi Cantori</i>	
<b>Easter III 26</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Vestry Meeting	<b>27</b> AA	<b>28</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	<b>29</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass & Breakfast 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	<b>30</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass			
<p><b>Holy Week at Grace</b></p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> (Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>) ~ Distribution of Palms at both Masses ~ Low Mass 8 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. ~ Gather at Grace St. Porch; Palm blessing and Procession; Solemn High Mass follows  <b>Monday in Holy Week</b> (Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>) ~ Mass 5:30 p.m.      <b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b> (Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>) ~ Mass 5:30 p.m.  <b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> (Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>) ~ Low Mass 7:15 a.m. (followed by Breakfast) and Office of Tenebrae at 7 p.m.  <b>Maundy Thursday</b> (Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>) ~ Solemn High Mass 6 p.m. followed by Stripping of the Altar and Night Watch in the Chapel of Repose  <b>Good Friday</b> (Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>) ~ Good Friday Liturgy 12 noon; Stations of the Cross 6 p.m.  <b>Holy Saturday</b> (Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>) ~ Liturgy for Holy Saturday 9:30 a.m. and Easter Vigil 7 p.m. followed by lamb dinner  <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> (Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>) ~ Low Mass with hymns 8 a.m. and Festal Eucharist 10:30 a.m.</p>							

2009

## Profile of Charlie Morse

(Continued from Page 9)

Back at Grace he works at Christmas and Easter with Richard Bragg, the former floral designer at Christ Church Cathedral. The rest of the year he is on his own. Flowers are gathered from his own garden in Manchester, from the church property itself, and from professional sources. He uses the Hartford Floral Supply Co. in Bloomfield for many of the church's needs. The architecture of Grace Church, he says, "lends itself beautifully as a Victorian theme to seasonal arrangements, especially at Christmas." He also uses big pussy willows from his own garden, the "John Cotton rose" from the memorial garden, the "Jim Ball memorial dogwood tree" from the front of the church, as well as lilacs, tulips, forsythia, and other plants on the church grounds for the Sunday displays and the special arrangements seen at Parkville Classics concerts, and at weddings, funerals, and other special services.

Charlie also sings in the Grace Church choir. He's been a member since the Rev. Edward I. Wagner was Precentor and organist. He spent 25 years singing in the Manchester Chorale and has, for the past 5 years been a member of the Vernon Chorale. Music has been an important part of his life since his days as a choirboy in New York. He also teaches a course for senior citizens at Manchester Community College, many of whom share his political views — "I have good time with them," he says.



He orders the flowers for the spectacular Easter arrangements the first week in Lent. The church budget has a line item for flowers, but, he says, individual donations and memorial gifts are needed not only at holiday time but throughout the year. Costs have risen and contributions of \$25 to \$40 per Sunday are welcome. "People support it very well and appreciate it," he says of his work. All you have to do is enter the church on Easter Sunday with your eyes closed and notice how the aromas wafting from Charlie's work will gladden your heart and make you happy to be here to rejoice, once again, in the risen Christ.

# Praying with the Rosary

By Elizabeth Miel

Many people are rediscovering the simple but profound devotion of praying with beads or saying the rosary. The practice of saying many repetitions of simple prayers, keeping count with beads, while meditating on sacred topics is a special form of contemplative prayer. It engages the voice, the hands, and the mind simultaneously and helps us to achieve an interior focus and deep silence.



Using beads or knots to count repetitious prayers is an ancient Christian tradition. In the Eastern Orthodox Churches monks and lay people use a circular rope of knots typically with 100 or 50 counters to aid them in the spiritual practice of saying over and over again the Prayer or the Heart also known as the Jesus Prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

In the western church, the most familiar form of the rosary is the circle of 54 beads with a pendant of 5 more beads and a crucifix. The traditional prayers of the rosary are the Apostles’ Creed, the Hail Mary, the Our Father and the Gloria Patri (“Glory be to the Father and to the Son,” etc.)

## Origins

The rosary has a complicated history which is further obscured by legends surrounding its first appearance. Apparently as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century lay people who could not participate in the complex Divine Office of the monasteries were devising various simplified versions of it. The monastic practice was based on reciting the 150 Psalms interspersed with readings and traditional Christian prayers.

Wealthy and devout lay people could have books of “the Little Hours” created for them, hand-written manuscripts with elaborate illuminations. Ordinary working lay people, generally illiterate, needed something much simpler. The most basic way of praying for the laity was to recite the Pater Noster, or early versions of the Hail Mary 150 times. A circle of beads for keeping count of these prayers was an obvious help. Our English word ‘bead’ is actually derived from the old English word ‘bede’ meaning prayer or petition.

Gradually the form of the rosary that we now consider traditional was developed and promoted in Carthusian and Dominican circles. It was often called the Angelic Psalter or the Marian Psalter. The word rosary itself is from the Latin *Rosarium* “Rose Garden” and the circle of beads and prayers was considered to be a “garland of roses” for the Virgin Mary. Alain de la Roche (1428-1475), a Dominican priest was especially prominent in preaching the devotion and founded many confraternities of the Rosary. The tradition which Alain promoted that the Blessed Virgin Mary had revealed the rosary to Saint Dominic himself in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century is considered apocryphal however.

### **The Mysteries**

The traditional way to complete the rosary is to pray around the circle meditating on one of the 15 “Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious Mysteries” for each decade or set of ten prayers. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added another group of mysteries – the Luminous Mysteries or the Mysteries of Light.

The Joyful Mysteries start appropriately with the annunciation of the angel to Mary (Hail Mary, full of Grace...) and include episodes from the birth and childhood of Jesus. The Sorrowful Mysteries are focused on Jesus’ passion and end with the crucifixion. The Glorious Mysteries begin with the resurrection and include Jesus’ ascension into heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the assumption and coronation of the Virgin.

The Luminous Mysteries add to the older tradition some meditations on the teaching ministry of Christ: His baptism, the wedding at Cana, the Sermon on the Mount, the Transfiguration and the Last Supper.

### **Alternatives**

There are other forms of Christian rosaries: The Servite Rosary developed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century had seven sections of seven beads and the meditations were on the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the 1980s the Anglican Rosary was developed. It consists of 4 “weeks’ of 7 beads plus a cross and an invitory bead. Various ‘little offices’ can be devised for these beads incorporating prayers and canticles from the daily office according to the liturgical seasons. People of other faiths also use prayer beads — Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists all use strings of beads as an aide to meditative praying.

## **The Practice:**

The most traditional method of praying the rosary is to start by saying the creed and an initial Our Father, then three Hail Marys and a “Glory be”, then the 5 decades (ten repetitions of Hail Mary) each preceded by an Our Father and ending with a “Glory be”.

It may seem complicated to try to count beads, remember the words of the creed and the prayers and meditate on episodes in the life of Christ all at once but in practice it is quite simple as long as one’s intention is just to enter into a prayerful state and is not fixated on following the recommended rules too rigidly. Holding the beads engages the hands, saying the prayers, occupies the voice (whether aloud or silently), remembering the episodes of the life of Jesus and Mary occupies the mind.

The Rosary has been a great comfort to people in times of stress and illness. Its recitation can bring a sense of peace into hospital rooms and into all sorts of places and times of trouble and anxious waiting. If you have a rosary with you, you always have a cross and “something to hold onto” even if you can’t remember how to pray.

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## **Lent**

By George Herbert

Welcome dear feast of Lent: who loves not thee,  
He loves not Temperance, or Authority,  
But is compos'd of passion.  
The Scriptures bid us fast; the Church says, now:  
Give to thy Mother, what thou wouldst allow  
To ev'ry Corporation.

The humble soul compos'd of love and fear  
Begins at home, and lays the burden there,  
When doctrines disagree,  
He says, in things which use hath justly got,  
I am a scandal to the Church, and not  
The Church is so to me.

True Christians should be glad of an occasion  
To use their temperance, seeking no evasion,  
When good is seasonable;  
Unless Authority, which should increase  
The obligation in us, make it less,  
And Power itself disable.

Besides the cleanness of sweet abstinence,  
Quick thoughts and motions at a small expense,  
A face not fearing light:  
Whereas in fulness there are sluttish fumes,  
Sour exhalations, and dishonest rheums,  
Revenging the delight.

Then those same pendant profits, which the spring  
And Easter intimate, enlarge the thing,  
And goodness of the deed.  
Neither ought other men's abuse of Lent  
Spoil the good use; lest by that argument  
We forfeit all our Creed.

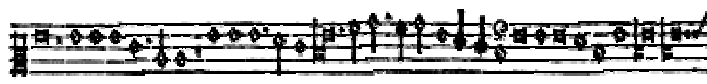
It's true, we cannot reach Christ's forti'eth day;  
Yet to go part of that religious way,  
Is better than to rest:  
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;  
Yet we are bid, 'Be holy ev'n as he',  
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,  
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one  
That travelleth by-ways:  
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,  
May turn and take me by the hand, and more:  
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast  
By starving sin and taking such repast,  
As may our faults control:  
That ev'ry man may revel at his door,  
Not in his parlour; banqueting the poor,  
And among those his soul.

Parkville Classics Presents

# Novi Cantori



Allan Taylor, director

Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Hartford CT



**Novi Cantori is a professional choir of nineteen voices which performs throughout the New England area. Novi is known for the high quality of its performances and for the musical expressiveness and precision with which its members sing; the remarkable blending of their voices is reminiscent of an English Cathedral choir.**



**Allan Taylor (shown at the left) is in his 17th season as Director of Novi Cantori, having been appointed in 1992. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College, Hartford, and a Master of Arts in Music degree from Smith College, Northampton.**

**He is Minister of Music at First Congregational Church, Westfield. He is also a concert organist and a harpsichordist, and has served the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as Dean, State Chairman, and newsletter editor.**

**He manages his own business, Allan Taylor Associates, specializing in the tuning, maintenance, and rebuilding of pipe organs. Mr. Taylor is a lifelong resident of the Springfield area and currently resides in Feeding Hills.**



# SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

By ROB DUNCAN  
Senior Warden

In the last edition of Grace Notes I reported that we were nearly complete with the review of the Strategic Plan. I had anticipated that we would have been completely done by the February Vestry meeting. However, because of a couple of well-timed snowstorms, the December and January Vestry meetings were very short and we did not cover as much as we intended to on the Strategic Plan.

As of this printing of Grace Notes, we are working on the final plan update for the Community Outreach Plan. As you may recall from the Strategic Plan the specific objective is to conduct a study of possible programs of outreach to the local neighborhood that would be feasible for Grace Church to undertake, including a survey of current programs by other organizations.

I mentioned that Carol Larco-Murzyn had presented her plan update on the Hospitality Plan. Some of the details of her plan include assigning Vestry members on a rotating basis to be responsible for looking out for new visitors to Grace at the 10:30 am service. This will ensure that at least one person will greet and talk with visitors to Grace after the service, invite them to coffee hour and ask them to sign our guest book. The Vestry member will continue to look for their visitor at subsequent services and coffee hours and make it point to talk with them again and introduce them to other parishioners. The intention is to make visitors feel welcomed, encourage them to join Grace and integrate them into the parish.

Other activities included in the plan include putting more information by way of pictures and podcasts of Max's sermons on the Grace website. This will give potential visitors a flavor for our Anglo-Catholic service and encourage them to visit us.

It's been amazing to see the progress we've made not only with putting the plan together but taking actions included in the various plans. Our hospitality plan has been implemented and already we're getting good feedback from parishioners and visitors alike. This in turn has encouraged members who might not want to approach new visitors during coffee hour to do so.

Elizabeth Miel presented the update to the Pastoral Care plan at the February vestry meeting and members had a favorable response to it spurring a good discussion. The introduction to the plan listed all of the activities the Pastoral Care team is already involved in organizing including laying on of hands, healing masses, rides to church and visits to hospitals, homes and nursing homes just to name a few. There are changes coming to the team with Kathy Jaeger progressing towards ordination as a deacon and ultimately being assigned away from Grace. A recruitment effort will be needed to continue the work of the Pastoral Care team.

Future plans for the Pastoral Care team include providing more rides to church, greeting card ministries, intercessory prayer group and healing ministries.

If you are interested in learning more about getting involved in any of these activities at Grace, please contact a Vestry member at the next coffee hour.

I look forward to continuing on a very productive path with the Grace vestry and to working with more of you who would like to become more involved.

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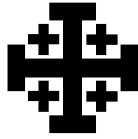
## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

My thanks to Tori Burns, Rob Duncan, Fr. Max, and Elizabeth Miel for their help and suggestions with this issue of "Grace Notes." Contributions from others are always welcome and may be sent to me at any time at [klemonskie@aol.com](mailto:klemonskie@aol.com). I will edit and re-format them for publication as needed.

EDWARD S. KLEMONSKI, Editor

March ~ April 2009 Issue

**GRACE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**



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If you are receiving this newsletter in error or wish to be taken off the mailing list, please notify the Church office.

**PARKVILLE CLASSICALS**

All concerts are on Saturday evenings in the church. They are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. A reception in the Parish Hall to meet the musicians follows each concert.

**APRIL 25, 2009 ~ NOVI CANTORI**  
**JUNE 20, 2009 ~ MUSICAL FRIENDS**