

Vicar
The Rev. Sharon Sheffield

Bishop's Committee
Sue Williams, *Bishop's Warden*
Jane Gordon-Topper, *People's Warden*
Andrea Utzman, *Clerk*
Lynne Richmond, *Minutes Secretary*
John Mitchell, *Bookkeeper*
Shelley Arnold
Rick Fridrick
Camelia Jolly
Rosemary Sissons

Minister of Music & Organist
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CANTERBURY TALES

MAY 2024



CLERGY CONFERENCE REMINDER

The annual Clergy Conference is **May 6-8** in Riverside. Both Mother Sharon and Father Michael will be out of town attending the conference. There will be **no Morning Prayer May 7-8 and no Evening Prayer May 7**. Please keep all the clergy of the diocese in your prayers as they seek to discern God's will for all our ministries.

TAIZÉ REMINDER

Due to Clergy Conference, the May Taizé service will be **May 15, not May 8**. See you in the sanctuary at 6:15pm for a service of music, prayer, and candlelight.

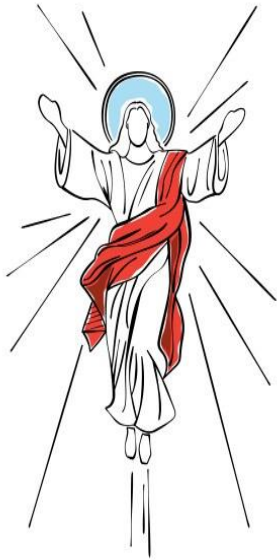
PENTECOST IS MAY 19



Pentecost is one of the seven Principal Feasts in the church year. We don't have any baptisms scheduled, but we will renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

You are invited to wear red and get your Holy Spirit on!

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE



Ascension Day is one of the seven Principal Feasts of the Church, celebrating the Risen Christ's ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter. Because it always falls on a Thursday, it tends to get lost in the shuffle. But for the last several years, the three Long Beach Episcopal congregations have worked to change that, coming together in a bilingual celebration of Holy Eucharist. This year, St. Gregory's will be hosting our third annual **Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 PM.** Come out and celebrate this special feast day of the Church with our fellow Long Beach congregations!

MOTHER'S DAY

We invite all women to celebrate Mother's Day with us on Sunday, May 12. We will have special prayers during the service and small treats available after both services, as well as special coffee hour food.



HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

St. Thomas is developing a new outreach mission in service to veterans living at Century Village in West Long Beach. We will be making individualized hygiene kits for ten residents who have been identified as having the greatest need. These kits will be replenished monthly. Additionally, there are opportunities to donate items on a one-time basis. Our hope is to not only provide for the veterans' physical needs, but to develop ongoing relationships with these deserving men and women. There are many ways to help, including adopting a veteran and providing items monthly, making one-time donations, and driving supplies to the Village. Please come to the informational meeting on Monday, May 6 at 4pm in Larkin Hall if you'd like more information. Supply lists are in the narthex and are available by email, and we ask that supplies be brought to church no later than May 19. For more information, please contact Shelley Arnold (562) 477-7665 or Rosemary Sissons (562) 818-3911.



MASS IN THE GRASS & PICNIC

The annual "Mass in the Grass" and Picnic with our St. Gregory's siblings will be Sunday, June 2nd at 10:15. We will be in our usual spot at El Dorado Park (El Dorado West Picnic Areas A and B). As always, be sure to bring your own chairs or blankets for seating. For those who may not be interested in or able to attend the Mass in the Grass, we will have our usual 8:00 service at St. Thomas for both communities.

This year the picnic lunch is a potluck!

If you plan to attend lunch, please RSVP to Kevin Wood in the St. Gregory's office (562-420-1311, info@stgregoryschurch.com). Please tell him the number of people staying for lunch and what you are bringing from the list below. Note that you don't have to bring all of one thing - you are welcome to bring two six-packs of soda rather than all four. There will be space at the picnic to keep hot food hot (like the baked beans) or cold food cold (like the watermelon and soda).

Canned Soda: four six-packs

Bottled Water: 36 bottles total

Watermelon: 1, cut into wedges

Baked Beans: two 3.5 pound cans, heated

Cookies: two dozen

Ketchup/Mustard/Relish: 1 large bottle each

DODGER'S NIGHT COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium is Friday, September 6. It's always a fun night, but there's a small amount of prep work that needs to be done for us to receive and distribute tickets for interested people. We need a coordinator who is able to monitor signups; collect ticket fees; place the order with Greg Larkin by the end of July; and receive and distribute the tickets via email in August. If we don't have a coordinator, we won't be able to get tickets this year. If you can help make this work, please talk with Mother Sharon.

LIVESTREAMING HELP NEEDED

We have livestreamed our 10:15 service since the beginning of the COVID shutdown. At first it was our lifeline for staying connected as a community. As the world began to open up again, and as we were able to go back to meeting in person, we kept the livestreams going in order to help our siblings who are ill, on vacation, or otherwise unable to attend in person. We've gained members who have seen us online and consider us their worshiping community, and we've been able to help our friends who can't always make it to church on a regular basis. Livestreaming is simply a necessity in today's church, and we don't want to take our online services away from those who need them and rely on them.

We've been able to livestream largely through the efforts of John Mitchell, who has been very faithful in coming every week and making sure our services are seen by our wider community. John has let me know that he would like to move on to other ministries, and I value both his commitment to our livestreaming ministry and his honesty in saying that he'd like to do something different. This means that we need two people to step up and learn the system so that we can continue to provide our online services on a regular basis.

The system is not difficult to learn, and everything you need to know is provided in John's notebook. He will help to train anyone interested in learning what's needed to keep us connected. You are invited to pray about this and talk with Mother Sharon or John if you're interested or have questions.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What could be happening next for the Pipe Organ?

There is one small problem that has never been corrected since the pipe organ was installed in 1981. I'll explain. The top keyboard of the organ console is called the Swell division, a group of pipes in a chamber. It came from its previous location with a set of Swell shutters. These are like large, vertical wooden shutters that can be opened and closed by the organist to change the volume. The front of the Swell organ chamber is from the center of the Christus Rex to the right-hand side of that bump in the chambers that you see. The previous set of Swell shutters was much wider than the front of the Swell

chamber, so the set of shutters were installed on the right-hand side of the Swell chamber. So, the sound is sent to the next chamber to the right, where the sound bounces around until it comes out in the front of that chamber, which is the chamber you see closest to the choir. While the sound bounces around, the sound becomes less clear. The trumpet, oboe and other sounds don't sound as good as they should.

There is a fairly simple and not very expensive fix to this situation. The sound from the Swell should come out from the congregation's side of the chamber so they can hear the pipes more clearly. The chamber to the left of the Swell is on the other side of the Christus Rex. That side already has a set of unused shutters facing the congregation. There is a door at the rear of the Swell chamber which opens to the chamber with the unused shutters. If the shutters that are not being used were able to be controlled by the organist and the door connecting the two chambers were left open, the sound coming from these shutters should be clearer sounding. The object is not to make the Swell sound louder but mainly to make it clearer. Thus, the trumpet should sound a little more like a trumpet, etc. This was planned by the Rosales company when they worked on the organ console. The console has an unused expression pedal, functioning like a gas pedal in your car, which was for opening or closing these presently unused shades. The organist could choose to open or close either as much or as little of both sets of shades as the organist likes. This would be tested manually before we do such a project.

To make this happen, two things must be done. First, a special electric motor can be added to open and close the shades in various amounts. Second, the motor that opens and closes the shades needs to be connected to the organ operating system up in that chamber. The Rosales company that worked on the organ console planned for this possibility and estimated a cost of \$3,290.00 for this project on May 30, 2023. I asked the Rosales Company if this cost is still valid, and they have confirmed the cost is still the same. Our Organ Fund now has about \$3,580 so this project would not affect the church budget at all. Of course, the Bishop's Committee would need to approve this project before we sign a contract with the Rosales Company. Again, we would test the effect of moving the set of shades manually to see if they give a better sound before we proceed further. Please let me, John Mitchell, know of any questions you might have about the organ. Before anyone asks, I'll say that installing the pipes in the rear of the church into one of the organ chambers will be off in the future somewhat, assuming roof repairs and such get done first, as a higher priority.



Birthdays

*Ken Williams 5/9, Abbi Sanchez 5/13,
Ari Sanchez 5/15, Joanne Jovanovic 5/16,
Jessica Topper 5/16, Chase Horton 5/23,
Juliana Almanza 5/27, Michael Bergman 5/28*

ANNIVERSARIES

**ANDREW & MARIA GORDON 5/21
BILL HENDERSON & ALBERTO OSSA 5/28**



We pray for the world, especially the people of the United States, and for peace all over the world and wherever there is oppression and trouble.

Serving in the Armed Force at home and around the world: members of the U. S. Army: **Adam** and Boston; the U. S. Marine Corps: Sean, Adelangel and Jesse; the U. S. Air Force: Jordan, Joshua, and Carlos; the U. S. Navy: **Jonathan** and the U. S. Coast Guard: **Jennifer** and Corey.

The protection and guidance of Parishioners and Friends: Bertha, Ariana, Alyssa, Ana, Deb, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Chris and his family, Daniel, Becky, Sandra, Alex, Josef, Brandon, Rosie, Nathan, Paul, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Sarah S., Ginny, Charlene, Pam and Peter.

The healing of Parishioners and friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Lillian**, Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Rae Ann, Kathy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Michael, Kathryn, Asgeir and Rosa, Eric, Beverly, Paige, Diane, Linda, Toni, Pat, Harper, Jane, Laura, Tori, Lance, Karen, Terry, Jared, Scott, Jeff, Jim L., Lu, Richard, Cindy, Jason, Gayle, Lori, Nancy W., Janice, Patricia B., Carolyn, Ruben, David F., Melanie, David, Jessica, Patrick, Patricia, Russ, Amanda, Vivian, Kenobi, Eduardo, Stacey D., Wilver, Jace, Rick F., Larry F., Suzanne M., Antoinette, Jean H., Susan K., Marty, Carnell, Diane B., Linda S., Karen A., Deborah W., Jim C., Mary, Rebecca B., Lucio, Andrew F., Amber, Tracy, Evelyn, Brennan, John C., and support for all families and friends caring for loved ones, the people of Ukraine, India, Vietnam, Peru, Nigeria, Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar and all parishioners and friends with health problems.

Homebound and Special Needs: **Karen, Samantha** and the homeless, the poor and the unemployed, affordable housing for families, the end of COVID-19, Ebola, AIDS, and Cancer in the world, and for those suffering from mental illness.

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