

MAGNA CARTA

SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA
Volume IV, December 2012

St. Edmund's parish

is part of the global
Anglican Communion
The Most Reverend and Right
Honorable Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury

+

The Episcopal Church in the United States

The Most Reverend
Katharine Jefferts Schori
Primate and Presiding Bishop

+

The Diocese of Los Angeles

The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno
Bishop Diocesan
The Right Reverend Diane Jardine
Bruce
Bishop Suffragan
The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool
Bishop Suffragan

+

Saint Edmund's Church

The Reverend Canon George F.
Woodward III *Rector*
The Reverend Canon Colville Smythe
Assisting (Retired)
The Reverend Dr. Fennie Chang PhD
Mandarin Congregation

+

The Vestry

Mr. Bob Wycoff, Senior Warden
Mr. George Seitz, Junior Warden
Ms. Michelle Harrington, Clerk

Class of '12

Ms. Nancy Adams
Mr. Bill Youngblood
Mr. George Seitz
Mr. Bob Wycoff

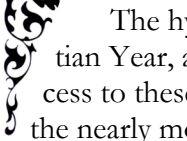
Class of '13

Ms. JoJeanne Angeloff
Mr. Tom Glover
Ms. Eli Moreton
Mr. Charles Russell

Class of '14

Ms. Michelle Harrington
Ms. Marguerite Hennacy
Mr. Brad Martinez
Mr. Mark Miller

From the Rector



The hymns of Advent are some of the most richly textured of the Christian Year, and this season I always feel sadness for those who do not have access to these soul-shaping words and melodies. The expectation expressed in the nearly mournful strains of Hymn #67 "Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load..." is emblematic of the music of a season fraught with deep yearning.

The great prophets of Advent are Isaiah, John the Baptizer, and the Blessed Virgin Mary; but also Jeremiah, Zechariah, Micah and Malachi. This is not a Season for the linear-minded, much less for literalists. Time is confused. God has acted and is acting and shall act, and the Messiah who has come is yet to be and shall come again...all at once! God is conspiring toward, and has accomplished, a salvific Incarnation in Jesus the Christ, and we'll spend Twelve Days celebrating that mystery in short order. Meanwhile, something is afoot in our own ordinary lives, suffusing our quotidian days, and we are to give attention.

Advent wonder isn't meant to devolve into sentiment, though it is right that poignant and sentimental moments come our way in the midst of Church and friends and family during these short Winter days. Sentiment, though, is not enough. The prophets and Mary and all God's weave and weal are meant to change us...to convert us.

God kindled a fire in Christ meant to run down the world's canyons and underbrush, igniting the high places; an unquenchable and dangerous flame, hot with God's own justice and the promise of searing transformation. "Herald, sound the note of judgment, warning us of right and wrong, turning us from sin and sadness, till once more we sing the Song..." (Hymnal #70). We will be judged and sifted, and our dross consumed that we might become more than we otherwise would be, participants in the redemption of humankind. The God beyond the myriad galaxies draws near and enters human life as Alpha and Omega, a babe, a Redeemer, a Sovereign. How can we be other than in fear and wonder this season, fairly driven to worship?

Those doing their winter heart-work in preparation for Confirmation into the Episcopal Church when Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce visits January 27th have been put through their paces considering Anglican Church history, morality and ethics, theology and sacramental life. Each class, though, returns to practical divinity: "Lex orandi, lex credendi" the law of prayer is the law of belief; as we worship, so shall we live. How do we worship, and how do we appropriate the peculiarities of worship in the Episcopal Church? Why do we bow when the Processional Cross goes by, and when do we make the Sign of the Cross? Why do some bow and others genuflect when entering or leaving a pew? What is the red candle all about, hanging in the Shrine at the end of the

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transept? These are small matters, adiaphorous, really; yet our interest reflects a deep and profound commitment to know God, love God, worship God, and to let the law of prayer transfigure how we move through our days, how we engage others, the choices we make, and the values we hold. We want to know how to worship more certainly, to meet God more surely, to offer the oblation of our lives and labors entirely to the God whose call and summons we have come to feel. "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come. For Thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without Thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay." (Hymnal #76).

We are changed through worship. Conversion puts us on our knees before the One beyond which no greater thing can be conceived. We open minds and hearts, our inner selves, to the sweep of the Refiner's broom, and the straight path proclaimed by the herald prophet. The hymns of Advent, the quiet of Advent, the thundering lessons, the Sign of the Cross, the Sacrament on the tongue...how else prepare for a Savior who will demand of us our very selves, and give us back our true nature in the taking? **GFW+**

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



The Nursery School will be closed for the holidays beginning Friday, Dec. 20th through Friday, Jan. 4th. Classes resume January 7th.

Our Christmas Programs will be held Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 9:00 am and at 10:15 am and again on Thursday at 9:00 am. Shows are held in Fellow's Hall. We welcome you to come by and watch as it is a darling program to kick off the holiday season!

Beginning January 28th and continuing through the first two weeks of February, applications for the 2013-2014 school year become available for all returning

students, alumni, active and pledging Church members' children and siblings of current or former students. The applications must be returned to the school no later than February 11th to hold a place for the student. Regular tours of the school are available Monday through Wednesday between the hours of 9:30am and 11:00am. Appointments are not necessary but please be sure to bring your child with you when touring the campus. Darlene Porter, Head of School, will be happy to talk with you about the upcoming school year so please be sure to stop by for a visit.

The Nursery School Staff and Teachers wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

NEW MANDARIN PRIEST



St. Edmund's welcome the Reverend Dr. Fennie Chang! The Reverend Dr. Fennie Hsin-Fen Chang is originally from Taiwan. She received a BA in Philosophy from Tunghai

University and a MA in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned her Ph.D. in education from the University of Toronto, Canada. In 2010, she received a Master of Divinity from Logos Evangelical Seminary, and one year later, she finished her

Anglican studies at the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont. She was ordained a deacon in 2011 and a priest in 2012. Fennie has been serving and helping develop the Mandarin ministry at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church since her graduation from the seminary. In 2011, she began to take charge of the Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of California, Irvine. Her passion is to continue to bring unbelievers, especially those from the Chinese immigrant community, to God and nurture the spiritual need of the Chinese congregations in the Episcopal Church. Her vision is to develop a spiritual healing ministry in the Chinese immigrant community.

NOTES FROM THE ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER



The St. Edmund's Sunday Afternoon Organ Recital Series presented two recitals in the fall. The first was by prize winning artist Weicheng Zhao, Master's candidate at USC and organist at St. Bede the Venerable in

La Canãda. The second, by Ty Woodward, UCS grad and organist at Hollywood United Methodist Church, and the iconic El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood. Both soloists performed flawlessly, and presented magnificent programs which showed off our magnificent pipe organ. We'd certainly enjoy having more parishoners in the audience for these short, yet exciting programs, and we are grateful to the ones who continually come and support our program.

The annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented on Sunday evening, December 9th, at 7:30 pm. St. Edmund's Choir will be joined by 10 members of the Los Angeles Opera Chorus and LA Master Chorale. Music by Manz, Guilmant, Nygard, Tavener, Vaughan-Williams, and Howells will be presented. A joyous reception will follow; thanks to Cheryl Mendoza and Susan Heard and the team! Please support our fantastic choir and join us for this candlelit holiday event.

On Christmas Eve at the 10pm service (music beginning at 9:40) , we will be joined by our usual Brass Quintet, which consists of players in the LA Opera Orchestra and LA Phil. We will present music of Darke, Gabrieli, Monteverdi, and others. The St. Edmund's Bell Choir, under the direction of Sylvia Smythe, will perform at both services, and the St. Edmund's Children's Choir, under the direction of Richard Seymour, will perform at the 4:30 family service.

On December 14 at 7:30 PM, and on December 15 at 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM, Richard Seymour, in association with the San Marino Recreation Dept. and the San Marino Community Theater Company (SMCTC), will present A CHRISTMAS CAROL, an original musical adaptation of the Dicken's classic by Doug Spesert and Richard Seymour. Tickets are available at SMCTC.US@gmail.com , or they can be purchased after church. Reserved seating tickets are \$20.00 and up, and a portion is tax deductible. For more information, contact Richard Seymour 213-880-1355 or Mary Hampton 626-744-9876.

— *Robert Hovencamp*

TAX FREE IRA GIFTS 2013

If you're 70 and a half or older, your chance to make tax-free gifts from your IRA for 2011 ends December 31st.

You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, and St. Edmund's qualifies both in need and in good stewardship! The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you needn't itemize to take advantage of

this opportunity. Specific transfer forms are available from those who hold your IRA, and help may be found from your broker, banker, or financial consultant.

Kindly remember St. Edmund's in your Estate Planning!

CHRISTMAS AT ST. EDMUND'S

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS The Altar Guild is making plans for the greening of the Chapel and Church for the Christmas season. If you wish to offer a memorial and/or thanksgiving to honor family or friends during the Christmas season, please send the text as you would like it to appear in the service leaflet, along with your donation payable to St. Edmund's Altar Guild, to Isabel Roa in the Church

office no later than **December 17th**. For your convenience, Christmas Memorial envelopes can be found in the Narthex, and your text and donation may be forwarded to Isabel by using one of these envelopes and placing it in the Sunday collection or by e-mail (isabelroa@aol.com). The Altar Guild thanks you for your support.



The children of Hillsides need our help this Christmas season to make their holidays bright. Select a special wish tag from the box located in the Narthex, shop, and return the unwrapped gift with the tag attached to the Narthex or church office by Sunday, December 16th, toys will be taken to Hillside

s on Friday, December 17th in the morning. If for any reason you are not able to bring the toys by that day, please deliver directly to Hillside: 940 Avenue 64, Pasadena.



The Altar Guild invites you to join us for "The Greening of the Church and Chapel in preparation for Christmas Eve and Christmas services. We will commence immediately following the 10:00 am service on Sunday, December 23, 2012. This annual event is a wonderful way to begin the celebration of Christmas

and your help is needed. We will be hanging wreaths and pew swags, adding bows, arranging potted poinsettias, and enjoying the spirit of the Christmas season as a community. Again, your help is needed so please sign up in the Church Narthex.



St. Edmund's Support the Bad Weather Shelter A howl of the wolf to St. Edmund's Parishioners who are financially supporting our only high-tolerance shelter for the West San Gabriel Valley! On Dec. 1, 15, and 29, the Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter is "weather activated." That means we will *not know until noon* on these dates as to whether we will be open and in need of a crew of 9-10 folks from 6-9PM at Covenant Church, 539 N. Lake Ave.

If you are *willing to commit to any of these dates*, contact Denise Wadsworth as soon as church is over, before the next priority looms! Cell: (626) 434-6646, denise.wadsworthslp@gmail.com





ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL ADVENT HYMNS AND SERVICES

ADVENT TWO, THREE & FOUR

8 a.m. in the Chapel

10 a.m. in the Church (Sunday School & Child Care)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 16TH

ADVENT FOURTH

Our raucous annual Christmas Pageant at 10 a.m.!

CHRISTINGLE MASS—DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Holy Eucharist 4:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTAL HOLY EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 24TH - 9:35 P.M.

The Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist,
with St. Edmund's magnificent Choir,
joined by guests from LA Opera Chorus
Brass Quintet from Los Angeles Philharmonic and
Los Angeles Opera Orchestras
St. Edmund's Handbell Choir, Sylvia Smythe, Director
Music of Monteverdi, Darke, Gabrieli

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTAL HOLY EUCHARIST

December 25th – 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Organist & Choirmaster, Mr. Robert Hovencamp
The Reverend Canon Colville Smythe, Assisting
The Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III, Rector

(No Child care will be provided on December 24th)

PARISH PAY



A Contemporary Way to Give... St. Edmund's provides a convenient method for online giving to the Church. Parish Pay

is the country's largest religious donations processor collecting funds automatically when so desired from either a church member's checking account or credit card.

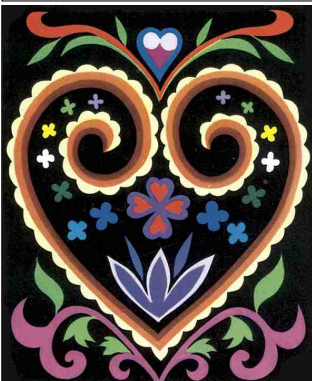
This system ensures consistent donations, assisting in the development of parish budgets, and offering ease of donation for those who prefer to pay bills online, or to schedule some payments on a repeating basis. Most churches experience dips in giving during the summer and winter months, and Parish Pay assists the office as it strives for predictable income.

Parish Pay handles all tax documentation and provides a monthly giving report as well as providing weekly donation slips that may be placed in the offering plate during Sunday liturgy. Parishioners can direct their secure gifts to the church's general account or to a specific collection, including Altar Guild, Music, Youth and one-time gifts.

Several parishioners have expressed appreciation for the convenience of Parish Pay, and, together with traditional methods of giving, we think it has proven a wise addition to our common stewardship.

For more information about Parish Pay, please visit their website at <http://www.parishpay.com>.

GIFTS OF STOCK



If you are interested in giving a donation to St Edmund's in the form of a stock gift, we suggest the following procedure:

1. Send an e-mail or letter of instruction to your broker specifying the issuer and number of shares of the stock that you wish to transfer to St. Edmund's noting special designation if other than annual pledge for your gift. Include in your letter the information on St. Edmund's account at Morgan Stanley:

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church
Account Number #255-053723
DTC # 0015
Morgan Stanley
Doug Lerner, Financial Advisor
(626) 584-3415

2. Send a copy of your e-mail or letter of instruction to St. Edmund's by emailing Valerie Guitron, Parish Administrator, or standard mailing to PO Box 80038, San Marino, CA 91108.

3. Request your broker to notify St. Edmund's when the transfer is taking place by contacting Gladys Vasquez (St Edmund's Bookkeeper) or Valerie Guitron at 626-793-9167.

It is very important to notify us of a stock transfer as the information we receive does not always have the donor's name with it!

You will receive an acknowledgement letter that includes the date the stock was received by St. Edmund's and its value. If you have additional questions about this procedure, please call the church office.

—Valerie Guitron, Parish Admin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School children in their costumes for Halloween.

"Dia de los Muertos" Altar in the Church Narthex.

Wolves at the Feast of St. Edmund, courtesy of Parishioner, Tom Glover.



FALL FUNDRAISER SNAPSHOTS



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

ST. EDMUND'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1175 SAN GABRIEL BOULEVARD
SAN MARINO CA 91118
(626) 793-9167
www.SaintEdmunds.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED