

The Canterbury Tales



Volume 15-Issue 6
November-December 2011

Advent: The Church's New Year by: Father Paul T. Beutell, II

We all know the world celebrates the New Year each January 1st. But the Church, while being in the world, is not of the world and, therefore, celebrates each New Year according to the liturgical, not the secular calendar.

For the Church, New Year's Day is the first Sunday in Advent, also called Advent Sunday. This year Advent Sunday is November 27.

While the liturgical color used in Advent is violet which signifies it is a penitential season, Advent is primarily a season of expectation. In looking back to the first Advent (which means "coming") of our Lord Jesus Christ and seeing how God fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies of the promised Messiah by it, the Church looks ahead with hope-filled confidence for Jesus' Second Coming in fulfillment of the promises Jesus and His Apostles have made about His return in the New Testament.

Part of that preparation includes penitence, for few, if any of us, are in a spiritual state where we are ready to meet the Lord Jesus face to face. We have sins to repent. We need to, as the exhortation to confession in the Prayer Book's Holy Communion service tells us, "*intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways...*"

But Advent is primarily a time of expectation. Our Lord Jesus *is* coming again! God fulfilled His promise to send His Only-begotten Son "...when the fulness of the time was come..." (Galatians 4:4) and He will fulfill His promise to come again at the end of this age (Revelation 22:12).

How will we know when that time, that Day, has come? The most reliable way we will know is by using what our fellow parishioner Bill Rutherford calls the "pinch test." No matter what other eschatological events may have occurred, if we can pinch ourselves and feel the pain of the pinch in our flesh, then we know our Lord *has not* returned. In 1 Corinthians 15:51- 52, St. Paul confirms this when he writes that on that Day "*we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,...*" There is no way a faithful Christian can be deceived! We *will* know. We will *not* be "left behind."

As each secular New Year approaches, most people make one or more "New Year's Resolutions." They determine to do a good thing they have not been doing or stop doing a bad thing they have been doing.

We can do something similar as we prepare for and begin Advent. But let us be careful! Unlike secular resolutions where failure to follow through usually only affects us, Advent resolutions are actually vows made before God for which He will hold us accountable. We must never make rash vows, and yet we need to challenge our faith or have it challenged. We need to set spiritual goals and strive by grace to accomplish them.

If we do not, our faith will become stagnant and begin to wither and die. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, St. Paul issues a challenge: "*Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves...*" We need to examine and prove our faith for it to grow. If we won't challenge ourselves, God will often provide or allow challenges that will prove us. It is better for us to willfully resolve to grow in our faith the way God's Word instructs us to grow than to have God place us, or allow us to be placed, in circumstances where we have to grow.

The Church's New Year is but a few weeks away. Are we ready for it? Do we have our resolutions thought out? Are we committed to them? At this time next year, will we be able to look back and see that our faith and our practice of the Faith have grown in some measurable way?

I pray each of you will approach the 2012 liturgical year prayerfully and soberly, committed to obey the Word of Christ and to serve His people more consistently to the glory of His Holy Name. I ask you to pray the same prayer for me. Your prayers are what sustain me each day in the work God calls me to do. I am grateful for every time you bring my name before our Father in Heaven.

A blessed Advent Sunday, "New Years" and Advent Season to you all!

Revisiting Old News

Two old events which need to be revisited are the church picnic held on October 2nd and the Brunswick Stew sale on October 15th.

Although Betty Loving had made the picnic plans, she had health problems causing her to stay home. Many people stepped forward offering their services to make the event a success. They individually provided food, purchased meat and bread which the church furnished, set up tables, saw to any special

needs and cleaned up after the event. All was done cheerfully.

Then on October 15, the Brunswick Stew Sale took place and proved so successful that all orders could not be filled. At least 55 quarts were sold. Money earned from this event will help provide special treats for the group of 30 or more patients in a mental health unit at the Veteran's Hospital each month when church volunteers visit.

To be able to finance the making of the stew, Church members donated money and ingredients, helped with preparation, packed, sold, purchased stew and welcomed customers.

It is important that the church undertake these kinds of activities. It allows members of the congregation a time to come together in good fellowship and participate in doing worthwhile things. It draws us closer as a church family and allows us to know each other more fully. It gives us a physical awareness that each member is important and is essential to the body of the church. We welcome more members to participate in these activities.

Women of the Church

The women of the church are gearing up for several activities. First they plan on collecting the Thank Offering on November 12th. Although it is called the Women's Thank Offering, men are not only allowed to contribute but are encouraged to do so! The money collected will be donated to the Area Ministerial Association to be used to help those who are facing dire financial hardship.

Beginning November 27, a Christmas Food Box will be available for gifts of non-perishable foods which will go to Second Harvest to help those who are unable to provide needed foods. The box will remain until December 18. Please give generously.

Also from November 27 through December 18, sign up for Christmas poinsettias will take place. The cost this year is \$10.00. Your poinsettia will help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas and then may be taken home to

decorate your home for the remainder of the Christmas season.

Please support the women in these endeavors.

An “Orphan’s” Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2011, Jeff Fitzgerald will be cooking an “Orphan’s” Thanksgiving dinner for anyone in the parish who does not have family and / or friends to celebrate the day with or would just like to fellowship with members of the parish family. The meal will be cooked in the parish hall kitchen and served in the parish hall.

There will be a traditional 1928 Prayer Book Matins and Holy Communion service that day at 9:00 a.m. Plan on attending the service and come back for fellowship starting at noon. Dinner will be served at 4:00 p.m.

The fellowship time will include playing “catch” with a football outdoors. Inside activities include games and watching movies and the football games scheduled for that day.

EVERYONE from the parish is invited. Feel free to bring a friend along, too. The entire meal and beverages will be provided at no cost.

Please come and be a part of this fun day of food and fellowship. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Fr. Paul by Thursday, November 17, so enough food can be purchased.

Our thanks go to Jeff for offering his culinary skills to the parish. He is a very good cook.

The College of Bishops Chooses Bishop Elect for DMAS

At Provincial Synod, held October 19-21 in West Palm Beach, Florida, Archbishop Mark Haverland announced to the clergy and lay delegates from our diocese that the College of Bishops have chosen The Venerable Donald Lerow to be our next bishop.

His consecration has yet to be announced and it may take several months before he is able to establish residency in our diocese. Prior to his becoming the Ordinary of DMAS, he will be the Bishop to the ACC’s Military Jurisdiction and Chaplains and Episcopal Visitor to DMAS with full administrative authority in our diocese.

Here is brief biography on the Fr. Lerow taken from the website of his current parish.

Father Donald F. Lerow, a retired US Navy Captain Chaplain was born on July 15, 1950 in Jamestown, NY. Upon graduating from the Randolph Central School, Randolph, NY, he enlisted in the US Navy in 1969 for four years, deploying twice aboard the USS Independence while assigned to VF-33 stationed at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA. Chaplain Lerow, a priest in the ACC, received a BA from the SUNY at Plattsburgh, N.Y. in 1977 and a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1980.

He has served various assignments in both the Navy and Marine Corps in his 28 years as a chaplain. His special relationship with the Marine Corps as the 2nd Marine Division Chaplain beginning in 2001 was the catalyst that inspired him to retire in the Jacksonville, NC area.

Father Lerow has a profound love for the Catholic faith, believing that the Anglican Catholic Church is part of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. It is his hope that this ministry in Jacksonville, NC will be a success and Christ will be praised and worshiped as He has been since His Ascension.

Upon completing service with 3rd MAW in Iraq and his final tour as the Naval Forces Central Command, 5th Fleet Chaplain, Bahrain, he retired from the active service as Captain in October 2008. He now serves as the Archdeacon for the Military Prelate and as the Executive Secretary for the Missionary Society of Saint Paul. He is the acting Priest in Charge of St. Barbara’s ACC, Jacksonville, NC.



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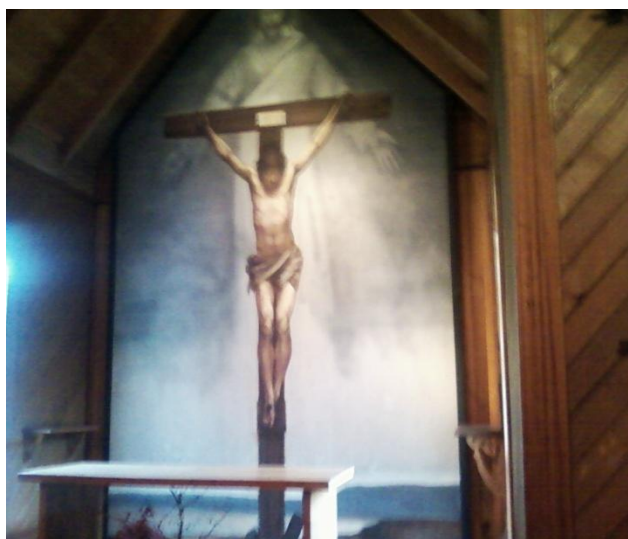
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The Rev. Father Paul T. Beutell, Rector
The Rev. Canon Marvin Gardner, Ph.D.,
Assistant Priest

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Oct. 19 visit to the Churches of the Frescoes.



**THE 2011 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, AFTER THE 11:00 A.M. MASS.**

