

Jan 26, 2017

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

- 8 am said Eucharist
- 10 am Sung Eucharist
- Sunday School Jan 15 during 10 am service
- No Sunday School Jan 22 and Jan 29
- One service at 9 am on Jan 29 followed by Annual Meeting . Fr Cole and Br Mark will both be with us on this date.

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Liturgy Reflections from Fr. Mark – Part III

Annual Meeting and Food Drive

Spring Break VBS

Photo of Fr Roy Cole with us last Sunday.

Chinese New Year reminder



Ascension this week

Liturgy (Part III of a series) “Table or Altar?”—Fr Mark SSJE

In the first installment of this series on our worship, we considered “tradition”, that is, the passing on of ways of doing things and ways of understanding to new generations in a way that connects us to the church in all times and places, and also nourishes “new growth” and the “fruits of this particular season”. “Tradition”, properly understood, does not mean simply repeating the past or doing things as they’ve “always been done”.

Last week we considered the nature of liturgical worship, “liturgy” being derived from a Greek word that means “the work of the people”. So, liturgical worship is not a performance by certain individuals in front of a passive audience, but a participatory offering of all those present, who may be taking part in various ways through singing, praying, listening, reading, ushering, receiving communion, etc.

Today we look at the altar. Or is it a table? In liturgical worship it is actually both. One of the hallmarks of liturgical worship in what we might consider a broadly catholic style such as ours, is that objects in the worship space communicate some idea. Some things communicate more than one idea, the altar/table, for example, and have multiple layers of meaning.

So, when we see the altar/table we may be reminded of the fellowship around a family dining table, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, the Supper of the Lamb. But we may also remember that the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is sacrificed for us in a sacramental way—and sacrifices take place at an altar and are performed by one anointed as priest. From very early times the altar has also been seen to represent Christ himself, the “rock”, or the cross upon which he was sacrificed.

Poets such as Charles Wesley speak of the “altar of the heart”, where Christ “kindles the fire of love” and inspires our own self-offering on that altar (see Hymn 704). Given the tremendous richness of what is represented by the altar/table, it is our tradition to give it a central and dominant position in our churches and in many places to reverence it with bows, kisses, censing and special fabrics.

Question for reflection: *What other objects in our church or actions in our worship seem to have multiple levels of meaning?*



Fr. Roy Cole was our celebrant on January 22nd. Fr. Cole and Br. Mark will both be with us for the 9AM mass on January 29.



Chinese New Year dinner at Church of the Ascension on Saturday, Feb 11, 5PM. Doors open at 4PM. Contact Roy Williamson for tickets.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Annual Parish meeting Sun Jan. 29th after 9 AM service (only one service). Breakfast made by the Chows. Elections to follow. Both Fr. Cole & Fr. Mark will attend. Wardens will preside. There will be a short vestry meeting afterwards in the office!

The Sunday School children will be collecting food donations that day. Let's not disappoint them. Shop Rite has a case sale of canned corn, peas or string beans for about \$5.00. Boxed, canned or packaged foods will be delivered to Richmond Senior Services Food Pantry for those in need.

Spring Break Bible School

Laura Wonica is chairing Spring Break Bible School to take place April 10 thru April 14. We **REALLY** need your help in order to make this program successful. We need teachers for Bible stories, recreation, and music; plus refreshment and hospitality coordinators, and teen helpers.

Please contact **Laura Wonica at (917) 596-3038 or laurawonica@verizon.net** to volunteer.



Visit us on the web at
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