

The Arimathean

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In my first days at St. Joseph of Arimathea, I spent a lot of time, in the nave. Near the front entrance, sitting in a rear pew, I began to notice several images of the cross. They were everywhere: embedded in the wooden panels, the pews, painted on the white plastered walls, erected on window frames, sealed within the stained glass windows, woven into the banners and one mounted, high, on the marble altar.

Why are images of the cross so prevalent in churches? I am often asked this question. If you read my previous article, in the last issue of the Arimathean, remember, I wrote about the cross and the significance of visual symbols and images. This November article will, also, focus on the meaning and significance of symbols. I wanted to share with you some more things about symbols that I have learned over the years. Some of these thoughts and explanations are from a liturgy professor, the Reverend Louis Weil and some are from my own liturgy professor, while I was studying at General Theological Seminary and who is now the Bishop of Atlanta, The Very Reverend Neil Alexander.

As you know, the Episcopal Church is a liturgical denomination, based on the Anglican tradition. The word *liturgy*, which pops up frequently in our Book of Common Prayer, means work of those involved in worship. It involves not only words but it also involves ritual action. Ritual is an action. Objects, movements, gestures, words, and even those people worshipping all point to the Holy. When we take part in worship, we use our capacity to make, understand, appreciate, and enjoy symbols. This is one of the bases of liturgy.

The word symbol comes from two Greek words: *Syn* which means "with" and *bolein* which means to "throw." A *sym-bol* is something which having been thrown with something else stands for that other thing. It means something else. Language or art have been used, since the beginning of time, to portray the divine. Any attempt to



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Front Page letter, cont.

communicate or mediate the truth about God involves symbols.

Of course, not all symbols are religious. There are different kinds of symbols. Some are able to communicate religious reality. In his description, Professor Louis Weil, put symbols into three different sections: arbitrary, participating and communicating. All three of these differences need to be understood.

"The clearest examples of arbitrary symbols come from mathematics. Let x = the number of apples in the first basket and y = the number of apples in the second basket. x and y are symbols. They stand for something else. But, there is no inner connection between X and y , on one hand, and apples on the other. Louis says that X and Y might equally well stand for the number of miles

that two joggers might run within an hour. Mathematical and scientific symbols are for the most part arbitrary." Louis Weil, Liturgy for Living, 1979.

Words, also, on the whole are arbitrary symbols. The word desk is not a desk. It is the sound uttered and then a mark on a piece of paper. But the word desk stands for a desk and has the significant additional property of being able to be spoken and thought about. Words summarize experience. The word *desk* means the totality of a person's experience with objects to write on, type on, pile things on. When a community shares those experiences, the word desk is a common possession. When it is written or spoken, that experience is shared. These symbols make verbal

communication possible.

Symbols not only just stand for objects but they can arouse feelings, call forth old forgotten memories and combine references in a way that makes the world new. In this area we become aware of the second kind of symbol, the *participating* symbol. Participating symbols do have a connection with what is symbolized. A country's flag stands for the country. It could not equally well stand for another country. As you know, to dishonor the flag is to dishonor the country itself. In the Christian community the cross is a participating symbol. It represents to us the reality of God's self-giving love which spends itself to death. In a unique and powerful way it stands for the revelation on God in Jesus Christ.

**Monday,
November 15 th**

Vestry Meeting

Front Page Letter, cont.

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"There is also a third kind of symbol, a participating symbol put to special use. It can conveniently be called a *communications* symbol. A communication symbol not only stands for the reality it represents, but also prompts that reality and indeed is that reality. A dollar bill is such a symbol. It is the symbol of a dollar; but unlike this sign \$, which is also the symbol of a dollar; a dollar bill transfers a dollar's worth of value within the community which honors it. We do not hesitate to say that a dollar bill is a dollar." Louis Weil, Liturgy for Living, 1979.

The most revealing religious symbols are *communicating*

symbols. Bread and wine at the Eucharist are the body and blood of Christ and they communicate that reality within the community of faith. Deep is the identity between thing and symbol. When the sacraments are described as symbols, some of us are confused, because we are conditioned to think in the arbitrary symbol mode. But, the change in the sacramental elements is inward, inside us, effected by the spirit. Words from the Book of Common Prayer, Rite I service, "vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Words and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we.... may be

partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood"

To say that Christ is the image of God, or that Jesus is the incarnation of the Word of God, which is God, is symbolic language. Yet we are not dealing with the arbitrary symbols but with communicating symbols which by virtue of the work of the Holy Spirit are the reality which they represent.

We do not worship symbols. Symbols are not idols. Most Christians realize that symbols do help us and encourage us to stay focused on our Savior, Jesus Christ. Symbols are at the heart of liturgy.

Peace,
Horace+

Date Correction:

Please note that the dates for Lent on the Altar Flower letter sent out on Oct. 1st is incorrect. There will be no flowers during Lent in 2011 from March 9th through April 16th. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Vestry Corner

The Vestry meeting took place on October 18, 2010. Fr. Choate opened with a prayer. The minutes were approved from the September meeting.

The Rectors

Report: The following points were addressed: The possible building of pillars at the entrance to St. Joe's. The labyrinth construction start date is approximately the week of Oct. 25th weather permitting. Jorge Luis LeBron has been hired to mow the lawn, trim and edge, rake and blow leaves on the grounds. Wages will be the same as the Sexton. He will be employed nine months per year. The organ requires a new blower that operates the floor pedal pipes. It was researched and learned a rebuilt motor will cost \$1300. On November 7th, Rose Bailey and Marge Ortega from St. Lukes in the Bronx, as well as a small group of women from Zion, belonging to Daughters of the King will worship at the 10:30am service, then meet with the women of St Joe's to share their story and

experiences.

November 12th is the Caribbean dinner at 6pm, followed by the Sundae's on Friday night concert series featuring the Steel Passion, steel drum band at 7:30pm. Future minutes will be emailed to all Vestry members.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be November 24th at 8pm. St. Joe's members are encouraged to bring detergent for their donation to ARC's. The attending houses of worship will bring a meal to share. Thanksgiving Day service this year is at 10:30am, and hope to have a meal for the homeless. Fr. Choate will reach out to Althea Serrant who is the point person for the event. On December 4th, a special service for children called Los Posadas was discussed. Jen Haus will be sending by mail and email the Readings to Lectors for the rest of the year. Vestry

members whose terms are ending (Cathy Gmoser, Dr. Connie Barrett and Rick Ewen) need to nominate parishioners as their replacements. The vote will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2011.

Treasurers Report:

A resolution was passed to acknowledge the restricted gifts listed in the treasurers report. All approved. A complete copy of the report is available posted in the McNeely room.

Additional Topics:

Katie Saliba suggested an update for our prayer list, which may be the perfect time to update the new bulletin. A question of snow removal for the coming winter was also discussed. Several Vestry members volunteered to reach out and get estimates for this service.

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Thanksgiving Thoughts

Why do we always say things like, "I can't believe its almost Thanksgiving already!" When we've had a year to prepare for it, when the calendar has the same number of days each year and that we can tell the time and season by the gift catalog which seem to multiply in our mailboxes!

We LOVE Thanksgiving at our house. It really is our favorite holiday. We gather and feast on all our favorites without guilt, we sit with people we adore, laugh till we ache, play games with our kids until we all feel like kids again and the 'presents' we give to one another is ourselves and our time – which is honestly the most valuable things we have.

This year was being planned almost six months ago – which house will we be

cooking in, the menu, the activities, the variety of people. Our table will see cultures from Slovenia, England, Jamaica, Italy, Nigeria, Upstate New York, Mississippi and Brooklyn. We do two 25 lb turkeys – one for eating on Thanksgiving Day, the other we divide and send leftovers home because the day after Thanksgiving is yummy too!

When we say grace at our table, we hold hands and go around each sharing what they are thankful for. Some are funny, some are thoughtful, some are sad, missing special people who use to be at the table, some are happy remembering what that person would have said. Yet the key word is thankful.

I am so thankful to be able to reach out

and share my thoughts and stories with you. I am so thankful many of you share your thoughts and stories with me. I am so thankful for a job that allows me to put Thanksgiving on the table. I am so thankful for my family – which of course includes the St. Joe's families.

I wish YOU a very Happy Thanksgiving – may you find a moment of quiet and peace tucked somewhere in the day, perhaps with a good cup of something hot and some of the pumpkin ginger bread pudding that is this months Culinary Corner recipe. May we ALL be thankful for the little things in this life that bless us each and every day. Breathe Deep, Think Peace
Patty

Vestry Corner, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

Warden's Report:
The Diocese General Convention will be Saturday, November

13th. Both Sr. & Jr. Wardens and Fr. Choate plan to attend.

The Vestry meeting

ended at 8:26pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 15, 2010.

Culinary Corner

Pumpkin Ginger Bread Pudding

Prep time: 30 min Level: easy
 Inactive prep time: 15 min Serves: 8
 Cook time: 1 hr 40 min

Ingredients

1 (4 pound) kabocha squash or pumpkin, preferably a sugar pumpkin
 Extra virgin olive oil
 2 cups heavy cream
 4 eggs
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 14 teaspoon ground allspice
 1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 loaf (about 10 cups) diced cinnamon brioche, challah or plain pound cake
 ½ cup golden raisins
 ¼ cup diced crystallized ginger
 Confectioners sugar for garnish

Directions

You'll need an 11 by 7 inch baking dish.

For the squash: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Cut the squash in quarters and remove the seeds. Brush the insides with a little oil and arrange on a baking sheet, skin side up. Roast in the preheated oven until the squash is soft all the way through, about 1 hour. Remove from the oven and let cool. (This can be done 1 or 2 days ahead). When the squash is cold, remove it from the skin and puree in a food processor. You'll need 2 ½ cups of squash puree for this recipe. If the mixture is dry while pureeing, add a ladleful of the pudding mixture.

For the pudding: Preheat the oven to 350

In a large bowl, combine the heavy cream, eggs, brown sugar, spices and vanilla and mix well to combine. Mix in the pumpkin (or squash) puree. Combine the bread, raisins and ginger in the baking dish. Pour the pudding mixture of the bread to cover and let sit for 15 minutes.

** Cook's Note: You may not use all of the filling. Add more filling if there's room in the dish once the bread has soaked.

Bake in the preheated oven until the custard is set, about 20 to 25 minutes.

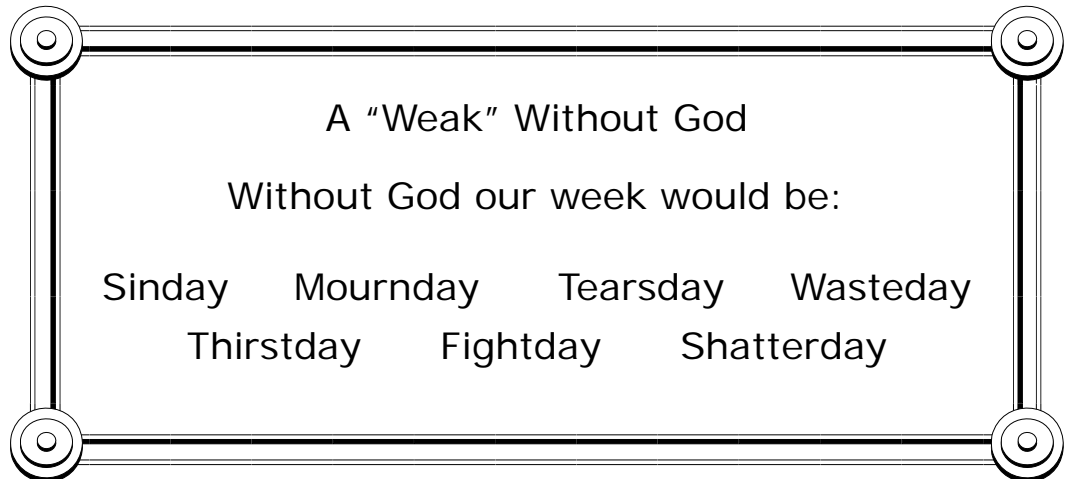
It's fall in a dessert! To serve, spoon the pudding into bowls and sprinkle a dusting of confectioners sugar on top. Enjoy!

Save the Dates!

November

- 6 Tag Sale 10am – 4pm
- 7 Daughters of the King – visiting with the women of St. Joe’s
- 12 Caribbean Dinner at 6pm – Steel Passion performs at 7:30pm
Join us for free ice cream sundae’s after the concert!
- 13 Diocese General Convention in NYC
- 15 Vestry Meeting 7:15pm
- 20 Men’s Group meeting at 8am
- 21 Valhalla Dinner
- 24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 8pm

Women’s Workshop Tuesdays at 10am
Sandwich Brigade Wednesdays, 11/10 & 11/17



Altar Flowers

- 7 by Joseph E. Rodgers in loving memory of Sally D. Rodgers
- 14 by Nancy Platt in celebration of the birthday of her grand daughter Kristen
- 21 by the Patterson family in loving memory of Frank C. Patterson and baby Lynn Patterson
- 28 Altar Guild – Happy Thanksgiving!

Do YOU Know the Warning Signs of Fraud?

Many thanks to Guy J. Cottrell, Chief Postal Inspector who sent a small flyer packed with information about Fraud and how to protect yourself.

Warning Signs:

- Sounds too good to be true.
- Pressures you to act "right away".
- Guarantees success.
- Promises unusually high returns.
- Requires an upfront investment, even for a "free" prize.
- Buyers want to overpay you for an item and have you send them the difference.
- Doesn't have the look of a real business.
- Something just doesn't feel right.

Play It Safe:

- Never click on a link inside an email to visit a Web site. Type the address into your browser instead.
- It's easy for a business to look legitimate online. If you have any doubts, verify the company with the Better Business Bureau.
- Only 2% of reports identity theft occurs through the mail. Report online fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.
- Shred confidential documents instead of simply discarding them in the trash.

Fraud Facts:

- Your bank will never email or call you for your account number.
- Don't wire money to people you do not know.
- Be cautious of work at home job offers.
- Check out the company with the Better Business Bureau.
- There are no legitimate jobs that involve reshipping items or financial instruments from your home.
- Foreign lotteries are illegal in the U.S. You can't win no matter what they say.
- Check your monthly bank statements for charges you don't recognize.
- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three national credit bureaus directly once per year.

Get Involved:

- It's never too early to become an informed consumer. Point out "too good to be true" offers to your kids, and teach them to be skeptical.

**Wednesday
November 24th
8 pm**

Interfaith Service at
St. Joseph's

Do YOU Know the Warning Signs of Fraud?, cont

- Take an active interest in the financial activities of your aging parents.
- Share information about scams with friends and family. Use social networking to help keep them safe.

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, works to prevent fraud and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid it. To file a complaint or get free information on consumer issues visit: ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP.

An Irish Mouse

Last month I shared our mouse adventure with you. Well, a concerned acquaintance has taken offense and told me we need a mouse in the house. Specifically an Irish mouse. She told me:

Each home should have an Irish mouse.

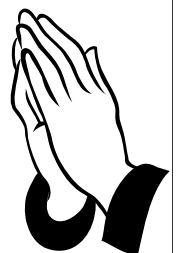
The mouse represents good fortune and food-a-plenty. Because a mouse would not reside in a house with a bare cupboard.

If the mouse leaves, the home despairs and bad time will surely follow.

So if anyone has or knows of an Irish mouse – please have them contact the church office. I will be interviewing for the position in the coming month. Thank you!

Prayer List

Alla Borzova's father **Alexander**, Patty Young's friend **Oliver** Simco, **Debbie** Gillett-Hermansen, **Clive** Brown, Billie-Ann Grant's friend **Brenda** Letford, Louis Grant's father **Lloyd**, **The Carpenter's Kids**, Paige Lockwood's friend **Jack** Demers, **Connie** Barrett, The **Udogwu** Family, Charles White's brother **Sydney** and niece **Sheila**, Mary-Carol Miller's friends **Jane** Dunne & **Carol** Vanecek, Jennifer Larrow's friend **Elizabeth** Graves, Barbara Brown's friend **Dottie** Cunningham, Carol Rohl's friend **Jamie**, Althea Serrant's daughter **Grace** Anderson-Smith, Marion Hellthaler's friend **Janet** Aurrigemma, Warren Stramiello's Grandmother **Shirley** Wurst, **Robert** Ewen and **Gary** Jerolman .



Directory 2011 Information

Hello St. Joseph Members near and far! Can I ask you to please take a moment and fill out the information to be used in the 2011 Directory, as well as updating records for birthdays and anniversaries you may wish shared. Also, if you would like us to include a current email address – now would be a great time to share that information too.

If you do not want certain information shared, this is also a good time to let the church office know, so we can update our records and be sensitive to your needs.

Of course if you'd like to save a stamp – please feel free to email your information to:

saintjosephofarimathea@gmail.com

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBERS: Home: _____

Cell: _____

Fax: _____

BIRTHDATE(S):

NAME:

BIRTHDAY:

EMAIL:

NAME:

EMAIL:

Can we save a stamp and send you the Arimathean by email too? _____

Thank you so much for taking the time to make my job a little easier. If we do not hear from you by January 2011 – it is assumed all information we have is correct.

The Wardens and Vestry request your
presence
and prayers at the Institution of

The Reverend Horace Choate Jr

As the Rector of

St. Joseph of Arimathea, 2172 Saw Mill
River Rd., White Plains NY 10607

Saturday, December 11th 2010 at 3pm

The Right Reverend Catherine Roskam
Suffragan Bishop of New York Presiding

The Reverend Canon Andrew Dietsche,
Guest Preacher

Reception following downstairs in the
Parish Hall.

RSVP Patty Young 914-592-7163
saintjosephofarimathea@gmail.com

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

2172 Saw Mill River Road
White Plains, New York 10607

(November 2010)

"Kind words can be short and
easy to speak, but their
echoes are truly endless."
~*Mother Teresa*

The Rev. Horace Choate, Rector
Rick Ewen, Sr. Warden Chris Larrow, Junior Warden
Vestry: Ben Alexander, Suzette Atkins, Clive Brown, Catherine Gmoser, Jennifer Haus,
Donna Rosengren, Katie Saliba, Althea Serrant,
Donna Rosengren, Treasurer * Patty Young, Clerk
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Catherine Gmoser, Layout Grady Jensen, Historian
Phone: 914-592-7163 Website: <http://stjosephofarimathea.diocesenyny.org/>

Glad Tidings!

Happy Birthday to:



11/02	Mary Jo Tuttle
11/04	Deborah Cooke
11/05	Elizabeth Walker
11/07	David Owens
11/08	Grady Jensen
11/10	Amelia (Amy) Forbert
11/11	Corey Grant
	Justin Grant
	Anna Geraldine Haus
11/18	Alex Ewen
11/19	Nancy Cooper
11/22	Joseph Benomar
11/25	Blaire Lockwood
11/26	Ben Dann