

CANTERBURY TALES

APRIL 2023

Vicar

The Rev. Sharon Sheffield

Bishop's Committee

Allen Stout, *Bishop's Warden*

Shelley Arnold, *People's Warden*

Andrea Utzman, *Clerk*

Lynne Richmond, *Minutes*

Secretary

Lance Brooks, *Treasurer*

John Mitchell, *Bookkeeper*

Jane Gordon-Topper

Camelia Jolly

Jeremy Richmond

Sue Williams

Minister of Music & Organist

Editor of Canterbury Tales

William Henderson

Associate Organist

& Webmaster

Marc Skuster

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church

5306 East Arbor Road

Long Beach, CA 90808

(562) 425-4457

Vicar's church email:

stlb47@verizon.net

Vicar's home email:

revsharonsheffield@gmail.com

Vicar's Cell: 562-833-3393

Web homepage:

stthomascanterbury.org



EASTER DAY
APRIL 9

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2

Palm Sunday Liturgy & Eucharist

8:00 and 10:15 am

and

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

9:00-noon

APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Foot Washing

7:00pm *at St. Thomas*

APRIL 6-7

Overnight Vigil

9:00pm-10:00am *at St. Thomas*

APRIL 7

Good Friday “Stations of the Crosswalk”

12 noon *from St. Thomas to St. Gregory’s*

APRIL 7

Good Friday Liturgy

7:00pm *at St. Gregory’s*

APRIL 8

Easter Vigil

7:30pm

APRIL 9

Easter Sunday Festive Eucharist

8:00 and 10:15am

The Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services, and the 10:15 Sunday service, will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

May 1-3

The clergy of the diocese will gather together May 1-3 for the annual clergy conference. Mother Sharon and Father Michael will be in Riverside those days. There will be no morning or evening prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday.

JURY DUTY

I have jury duty the week of **April 17**. Long Beach has call-in service, so there is a chance that I will not have to go to the courthouse and that work will continue as usual. However, I won't know each day's schedule until the night before. I appreciate everyone staying flexible; I will let everyone know via email if I have to go in to serve. - *Mother Sharon*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



The Women's Shelter of Long Beach gratefully received our contributions of personal items for their clients. We collected almost 60 containers of shampoo, body wash, conditioner, toothpaste, and deodorant.

Thank you again, Wendy, for inspiring this community service idea.

A Meditation: Who Needs Saints?

While teaching at a local Catholic high school, saints are constantly being invoked in prayer for intercession with God. There are statues of Mary, Jesus' mother, and St. Joseph, her husband, and stories about many saints are discussed in religion classes, and in other situations.

And of course, my own church is named for St. Thomas of Canterbury. In fact, most Episcopal/Anglican churches are named for saints. In addition, each week, during services, we recite the Nicene Creed and state that we believe in the communion of saints.

But what does that mean? Protestants and Catholics have different views about who qualifies as a saint, and different views on the validity of intercessory prayer (praying to a saint for intercession with Christ). But what are Anglicans taught to believe about the saints?

Britannica gives us this brief overview of general **Protestant views** about the saints:

In medieval Western Christianity, special emphasis was placed on the benefits to be derived for the living ("**the church militant**") through the **intercession** of the saints in heaven with God ("**the church triumphant**"); the dead who were not yet perfected ("**the church suffering**") were also believed to be the beneficiaries of prayers said in their behalf. Major Protestant reformers, wishing to reaffirm the **unique** mediatory role of Jesus Christ, denied the intercessory role of the saints and **viewed the communion of saints as all believers in Christ**. Some Protestant churches further understand this to be limited to **living** Christians.

The key here is that your neighbor in the pew can pray for you, but dead people cannot. In this view, saints like St Thomas are dead (pending the general resurrection at the, end of time) and are therefore not able to intercede or pray for us.

Roman Catholics, on the other hand, argue that there are some, recognized, saints who are **not dead**. Mary, the mother of Jesus, ascended into Heaven at the time of her "death," so is not dead. Likewise, other saints have been raised from the dead into Heaven and are therefore able to intercede/pray

for us. They can cite, as an example, Jesus appearing with (living) Moses and Elijah during His transfiguration (MT 17:3). If Moses and Elijah can appear with Jesus, they must not be awaiting resurrection. And if this demonstrates that at least some saints (including Patriarchs) have been raised, then they can be asked to intercede/pray for us like any other Christian with whom we share a pew.

But what are Anglicans/Episcopalians taught? According to the catechism in the **Book of Common Prayer (BCP)**, “The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

The BCP **Common of Saints** prays, “O Almighty God, who by **thy Holy Spirit hast made us one with thy saints in heaven and on earth**: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and may know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to thy power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*”

In my reading of this prayer, there is room (though not a requirement of faith) to believe that there are saints already in heaven. And if so, we can pray to them for intercession. But our primary “use” of the saints is for instruction – to learn from the example of their witness to help us lead more Christ-like lives – or at least as much as we can, given our human limitations of life and circumstance. All Christians can pray directly to God/Jesus. Catholics – and some Anglicans/Episcopalians – believe that we can also pray to the saints for intercession. Other Episcopalians and most Protestants believe that we should not pray to saints for intercession, but that we can use the lives of the formally-recognized saints (like St Thomas) – and the everyday saints seated next to us in the pews – as examples to help us to become better disciples of Christ.

That is what is on my mind today. What do YOU think?

Allen Stout

Bunco



Come join us for Bunco
on Friday, May 5th,
5:30-8:30 pm

There will be a \$20 buy-in.
Prizes for all!

RSVP Sue Williams at kyliesgrammy04@yahoo.com

Help us celebrate the beginning
of a new Royal Era at our
Coronation Tea
on Saturday, May 13 from 11:00-2:00 pm



Elegance and Fun will be the order of the Day.

**\$40.00 per person. Please reserve by
Wednesday, May 3rd.**

RSVP to Jane Gordon-Topper at ingt@verizon.net



Have you had a good Spring
Cleaning yet?

Do you have more "stuff" than
you need?

St. Thomas Boot Sale is the place to sell it.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 8:00am - 1:00pm

\$20 per spot.

Just drive up, open your trunk, and make some money.

Save your spot! Email Andrea at apqueen02@aol.com



Birthdays

*Samantha Heatherly 4/1, Ashley Heatherly 4/7,
Cathy Khoury 4/7, Ria Almanza 4/9,
Aaron Pilgrim 4/9, Evelyn Smith 4/13,
Jeremy Richmond 4/27, Owen Manel 4/27,
Bert Pezone 4/29*

ANNIVERSARIES

DAVID & SAMANTHA HEATHERLY 4/13



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

Serving in the Armed Forces 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, Joe, Deb, Erin and her family, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Chris and his family, Daniel, Sandra, Sue, Josef, Brandon, Michaela, Rosie, Nathan, Jan, Paul, Jason, Analisa, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Shannon, June, and Jim.

The healing of Parishioners and friends: Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Joe, Rae Ann, Kathy, Lindy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Dawna, Michael, Ginger, Deb, Lisa, Kathryn, Nancy, Earl, Pat, Chuck, Ellie, Nick, Asgeir and Rosa, Joshua, Joyce, Donna, Bob F., Linda, Beverly, Paige, Billie, Eric, Doris, Diane, Joan, June, Toni, Rachel, Pat, Bill, Lynn, Jane, Fran, Laura, Tori, Claire, Lance, Sabrina, Susan, Karen, Steven, Jared, Marguerite, Scott, Charlie, Gwen, Jean, Jeff, Lee, Audra, Charlie, Sean, Geri, Karin, Jim L., Sue, Lu, Richard, Cindy, Daniel, Kim, Jason, Jennie, Lorretta, Pam, Gayle, Lori, Lynne, Jordyn, Jan, Nancy W., Bill, Pat, Camelia, Tony, Liz, Bruce, Mary, Kim, Ellie, Barbara and support for all families and friends caring for loved ones, especially Tami, 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.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
5306 East Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808-1109
Phone: (562) 425-4457
E-mail: stlb47@verizon.net
Web page: stthomascanterbury.org