

VOLUME LXIII NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1994

AVE



The Restoration of the
Æolian-Skinner Organ, Opus 891, 1932, G. Donald Harrison
inside story page 2

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
NEW YORK CITY

AVE

CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
145 WEST 46 STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10036-8591

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY ISSUE

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

139 West 46th Street New York, NY 10036-8591

Parish founded 1868

Church built 1894

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Morning Prayer 8:40 am

Masses: 9:00 am, 10:00 and 5:00 pm

Solemn Mass with Sermon 11:00 am

(full choir)

Evening Prayer 4:45 pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday)

Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Noonday Office 12:00 Noon

Mass: 12:15 pm

Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

Mass: 6:15 pm

SATURDAY

Mass 12:15 pm and 5:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday:

11:30 - 12 noon (Parish Clergy)

4 - 5 pm (Parish Clergy)

Sunday: 10:30 - 10:50 am (Fr. Wells)

Major holy days:

5:30 - 5:50 pm (Fr. Wells)

CHURCH HOURS: The church is open for prayer and meditation Mon. - Fri., 7 am - 9 am and 11 am - 7 pm; Saturdays 11:30 am - 5:30 pm; Sundays 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Rev'd Edgar F. Wells, President; George H. Blackshire, Vice President; Leroy Sharer, Secretary; Barbara L. Klett, Treasurer; Russell H. Bagley, Jr.; Ronald L. Cox; Larry C. Cramer; George Handy; Michael J. Merenda; Barbara Q. Myers

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ADMINISTRATION

PARISH OFFICE (212) 869-5830

145 W. 46 St., New York, NY 10036-8591

Office Hours 9 am - 4:30 pm

[Monday - Friday, except legal holidays]

The Reverend Edgar F. Wells, Rector

The Reverend David L. Carlson, Curate

The Rev'd Allan Jackson, Assistant

(212) 840-0354

Mrs. Eileen Sorensen, Parish Secretary

Morehead-McKim, Funeral Directors

(212) 744-2500

MUSIC OFFICE (212) 921-2939

Mr. Kyler W. Brown, Music Director &
Organist

Mr. John Sherer, Associate Organist

RECTORY (212) 869-5831

144 W. 47 St., New York, NY 10036-8591

MISSION HOUSE

133 W. 46 St., New York, NY 10036-8591

AVE

A Bulletin of
THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
New York City

VOL. LXIII

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

No. 1

Epiphanytide 1994

My dear People:

As I write this to you at the beginning of another calendar year there is so much I want to tell you about our ongoing life at St. Mary's, and every bit of it is exciting and filled with hope where our parish is concerned.

In the first place, I cannot think of a more wonderful Christmastide than the one we have just completed. Musically, it began with two performances of Handel's **MESSIAH** in the church on the third weekend of Advent, and this indeed was the second year that Kyler Brown and his musicians reproduced an authentic replica of Handel's original production. The presence of renowned soloists in the lead roles was equaled by the performance of our own choir, and the music critic of the New York Times acknowledged what we here know already to be the case: the music at St. Mary's is once again at the top of the list in this city's religious music circles. We are so proud of Kyler, and equally so of our choir. Their sense of genuine vocation lifts our worship into the very presence of God week by week.

And as many of you know, our G. Donald Harrison Aeolian-Skinner organ is now out of service, and will remain so until Holy Week this year. During this period the console is being fitted with a new combination action, needed repairs are being effected, and all work connected with the restoration of the organ is being completed. How glorious it will all sound on Easter this year, with Louis Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*! Presently, and until the end of Lent, our choir is located in the nave just ahead of our front pews, and an Allen 2-manual electronic organ is replacing our usual instrument. And beyond necessary restoration, our last goal in early 1995 will be the final completion of our G. Donald Harrison organ, at which time the entire instrument will be dedicated and blessed.

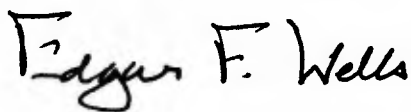
And of course music is but the handmaid to our chief activity here, the worship of Almighty God. That worship has been incredibly beautiful this Advent and Christmas, and nowhere is our Christmas joy more wonderfully expressed than in the words of our Eucharistic Prayer this season: "For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life."

And so another Christmas has come and gone. A real joy for us this Epiphanytide will be the presence in our sanctuary of the Bishop of Long Island, The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker. Bishop Walker is presiding at our Candlemas observance, and preaching at our Mass of the Purification that night. Only two weeks later we will be beginning Lent, and more information about that, and about an unusually early Easter, will follow in our next issue.

In writing of everything else, I have not mentioned our continuing work of restoration on our buildings. New gutters are presently being installed in the church proper, and I hope in our March/April issue of AVE to give you a complete report on work already accomplished, and on what still lies ahead.

In the meantime I send this to you with my prayers, and with gratitude for your love for this place.

Faithfully yours,



Edgar F. Wells

REMEMBER SAINT MARY'S IN YOUR WILL

BEQUESTS may be made in the following form:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Society of the Free Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, and having its principal office at 145 West Forty-sixth Street, New York City, [here state the nature or amount of the gift]:

LOOKING AHEAD IN JANUARY and FEBRUARY

Saturday, January 1st, 11:00 am
**THE HOLY NAME OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

SOLEMN MASS

Sermon: Fr. Carlson

Music: Mass in d *Lloyd Webber*

Anthem - In the bleak mid-winter *Harold Darke*

Thursday, January 6th
**THE EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

5:30 pm ORGAN RECITAL -- Paul Stetsenko, NYC

6:00 pm PROCESSION, STATION AT THE CRECHE,

SOLEMN MASS

Sermon: Fr. Wells

Music: Messe No. 1 in F *Franz Schubert*

Motet - The three kings *Peter Cornelius*

Wednesday, February 2nd, 6:00 pm
**THE PRESENTATION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

CANDLEMAS PROCESSION & SOLEMN

PONTIFICAL MASS

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr.

Bishop of Long Island

Music: Missa Sollemnissima *Marius Monnikendam*

Motet - Senex puerum portabat *William Byrd*

Motet - Diffusa est gratia *Giovanni Nanino*

Wednesday, February 16th, 6:00 pm
ASH WEDNESDAY
SOLEMN MASS WITH PENITENTIAL OFFICE

Sermon: Fr. Carlson

Music: Missa brevis *Noel Goemanne*

Motet - Lay up yourselves (1986) *Ned Rorem*

Ashes imposed at all Masses *Low Masses at 8 AM & 12:15 PM*

This sermon was preached by The Venerable Peter Hannen, Archdeacon of Montreal, Canada at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, NYC, Evensong & Benediction, Eve of the Feast of Dedication, Oct. 2nd, 1993

Have you ever noticed that the Church is very good at pricking balloons? You may have noticed it in the confessional (like the girl who confessed to vanity, and was told “That’s not a sin, my dear - - just a mistake”).

But I’m thinking in more liturgical terms. For example, at Harvest Thanksgiving, the readings remind us that we do not live by bread alone. On national occasions like Independence Day or Canada Day, the readings remind us to “render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s ...” And tonight, as we begin the Feast of Dedication of this glorious church, St. Paul in the 2nd lesson talks as much about foundations as he does about buildings, and reminds us that God’s temple is not bricks and mortar, but ourselves, his people, built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

This is a little deflating, perhaps, when what we’re here to celebrate is what we have built upon that foundation: this church, certainly, but also what it symbolizes - - the whole structure of Catholic theology, spirituality, discipline, worship and service which has been built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

How did we get here from there? - - from that foundation to this great edifice - - from an itinerant carpenter-teacher in Galilee who had no place to lay his head to this temple on 46th St. near Broadway - - from an Upper Room with twelve disciples a few hours before his death to Evensong and Benediction this evening? In a word, how did Catholic Christianity get from the manger to the monstrance?

I ask the question in this way for a reason. We’re all conscious of the changes in the Church in the past generation: liturgical revision or women priests, for example. That’s amongst Anglicans. Other Communion have had their own changes to cope with: a vernacular liturgy for Roman Catholics; any liturgy at all among Protestants. And everyone’s wrestling with issues of feminism and of ecological and sexual ethics. And so it goes. Don’t for a moment think that Episcopalians are the only ones who feel they’ve been subjected to a lot in one generation, and who long for what they fondly remember as the “good old days”.

But there have been 67 generations since the dawn of the Christian era, and what we’ve had to cope with is nothing compared to the changes which have taken place over those 2000 years. If you’ve had problems with the notion of women priests or a different liturgy, imagine explaining Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to a shepherd who had been in Bethlehem or an apostle who had been in the Upper Room 2000 years ago!!

Would that shepherd or that apostle be convinced if we explained the underlying principles to him thus?: that we, human beings, are embodied souls, made in the image of God (which your old friend, Archbishop Michael Ramsay, once told the clergy of Montreal was the cardinal doctrine of the Judaeo-Christian tradition); that God, too, chose to be embodied - - the baby in that manger was God incarnate; that God thus established the principle that what we see, touch, taste, smell, can be vehicles of his grace, of his truth, and even of his presence - - the principle of the Incarnation; that from that truth springs the sacramental principle, which is at the heart of our worship. Hence, then, this service, in which a piece of Bread constitutes the sacramental presence of him who was incarnate at Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

This is the edifice of doctrine and devotion, erected by the Spirit and the Church upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, that we celebrate tonight. It’s only because of that edifice that we celebrate this edifice, in which those doctrines and devotions are both preached and practiced.

Should later generations of Christians, after the shepherd and the apostle, not have built upon that foundation? But how could we not have? We don’t live in the first century, and we cannot live in their foundation. Indeed, foundations are not intended to be lived in, but rather to be built on. That sounds incredibly obvious - - but it’s amazing how many devout Christians seem to believe that there was some magical moment in the past when everything was at its theological or liturgical or devotional peak, and that it’s been downhill ever since then.

You probably won’t believe me when I quote you the most extreme example of that attitude - - “Postremum Spiritus Sanctus oracula effudit”, “Here the Holy Spirit spoke for the last time”: words written over the door of the church where the Council of Trent took place! It is to laugh at the pomposity, if we do not weep at the blasphemy!

We simply cannot say that, or even think it, never mind engrave it in stone. We can never put limitations on the power of the Spirit to lead us into all truth. But if we want to, then why not simply say that only that

shepherd in Bethlehem or that apostle in the Upper Room could genuinely have known Jesus and been his disciples; that all Christians since the apostolic age have been 2nd-class citizens in the Kingdom of God?

But in fact, our affirmation is precisely that the Lord lives, and is our contemporary now in the 20th century just as truly as he was theirs in the first; that the second Person of the Trinity is just as present to us now, in Word and Sacrament, as he was to them then in the incarnate person of Jesus of Nazareth, in the manger and on the hills of Galilee and in the Upper Room.

We have not always followed him infallibly - - any more than his first disciples did - - but his Spirit has led us indefectibly, and that same Lord and Spirit who saw Christians through the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the impact of Hellenistic culture and philosophy, the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment, the scientific revolution, and God knows what all else over 2000 years, will certainly also guide us through the challenges of the end of the second Christian millennium - - the feminist revolution, the sexual revolution, and whatever else. God, who has built his Church heretofore, will certainly continue to build.

So, resting just as firmly on Jesus as this church does upon its own foundation, we affirm before God tonight the edifice of faith and spirituality as God has thus far built it. Let us hear God's word to us tonight - - the same word that he spoke to the people of God in tonight's Old Testament reading at - their Feast of Dedication, who remembered things as they were, and longed for what they remembered as the good old days, and feared for the present and the future.

God reassured them, as he reassures us: "Yet now take courage ... for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts My Spirit abides among you; fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: ... the latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts."



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

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|----|-----------|--|
| 1 | Saturday | THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
<i>Solemn Mass, 11 AM</i>
Preacher: Father Carlson
Music: Mass in d <i>Lloyd Webber</i>
Anthem - In the bleak midwinter <i>Harold Darke</i> |
| 2 | Sunday | THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Preacher: Father Jackson
Music: Missa brevis <i>Andrea Gabrieli</i>
Motet - Jesus Christ the apple tree <i>Elizabeth Poston</i> |
| 3 | Monday | of Christmas II |
| 4 | Tuesday | Elizabeth Ann Seton |
| 5 | Wednesday | John Neumann, Bishop |
| 6 | Thursday | THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
<i>Procession, Station at the Creche, Solemn Mass, 6 PM</i>
Preacher: Father Wells
Music: Messe No. 1 in F <i>Franz Schubert</i>
Motet - The three kings <i>Peter Cornelius</i> |
| 7 | Friday | Raymond of Penyafort, Priest <i>Abstinence</i> |
| 8 | Saturday | <i>of Our Lady</i> |
| 9 | Sunday | THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Procession and Solemn Mass, 11 AM
Preacher: Father Wolsoncroft
Altar Flower Memorial - Helen E. Butler
Music: Canterbury Mass (1980) <i>Anthony Piccolo</i>
Motet - Benedictus (Christmas Oratorio)
<i>Camille Saint-Saens</i> |
| 10 | Monday | William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, & Martyr, 1645 |
| 11 | Tuesday | <i>Requiem</i> |
| 12 | Wednesday | Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167 |
| 13 | Thursday | Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, and Doctor, 367 |
| 14 | Friday | Kentigern, Bishop, 612 <i>Abstinence</i> |
| 15 | Saturday | Paul the First Hermit, circa 345 |
| 16 | Sunday | THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Preacher: Father Carlson
Music: Missa in C <i>Antonio Lotti</i>
Motet - Wer will uns scheiden <i>Heinrich Schütz</i> |
| 17 | Monday | Antony, Abbot in Egypt, 356 |
| 18 | Tuesday | THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE |

- 19 Wednesday Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
 Concerts at St. Mary's presents "L'antica musica"; Joel Frederiksen, bass-baritone and Gregory Hamilton, theorbo and lute; tickets \$20; for information call 212-921-2939
- 20 Thursday Fabian, Bishop and Martyr of Rome, 250
- 21 Friday Agnes, Martyr at Rome, 304 *Abstinence*
- 22 Saturday Vincent, Deacon of Saragossa, and Martyr, 304
- 23 Sunday **THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 Preacher: Father Jackson
 Music: Mass (1981) *Gerald Near*
 Motet - My spirit sang all day *Gerald Finzi*
- 24 Monday Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
- 25 Tuesday **THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE**
- 26 Wednesday Timothy and Titus, Companions of St. Paul
- 27 Thursday John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407
- 28 Friday Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Friar & Doctor, 1274 *Abstinence*
- 29 Saturday *of Our Lady*
- 30 Sunday **THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 Preacher: Father Wells
 Music: Missa quarti toni *Tomas Luis de Victoria*
 Motet - I will give thanks *Ronald Nelson*
- 31 Monday John Bosco, Priest

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- 1 Tuesday Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c. 523
- 2 Wednesday **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**
Candlemas Procession, Solemn Pontifical Mass, 6 PM
 Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr.
 Bishop of Long Island
 Music: Missa Sollemnissima *Marius Monnikendam*
 Motet - Senex puerum portabat *William Byrd*
 Motet - Diffusa est gratia *Giovanni Nanino*
- 3 Thursday Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865 (com. Blaise, Martyr)
- 4 Friday Cornelius the Centurion *Abstinence*
- 5 Saturday The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
- 6 Sunday **THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 Preacher: Father Jackson
 Music: Mass in the dorian mode *Herbert Howells*
 Motet - The eyes of all hope in thee, O Lord
Richard Felciano
- 7 Monday *Requiem*
- 8 Tuesday Jerome Emiliani, 1537
- 9 Wednesday
- 10 Thursday Scholastica, Virgin, 543
 Concerts at St. Mary's & Gotham Early Music, Ltd. presents "The Tallis Scholars"; Peter Phillips, director; tickets \$25 & \$20; for information call 212-921-2939
- 11 Friday Our Lady of Lourdes *Abstinence*
- 12 Saturday
- 13 Sunday **THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 Preacher: Father Wells
 Altar Flower Memorial - Nona Gilvin Parker Perciballi
 Music: Missa festiva brevis *Perrin Allen*
 Motet - My help comes from the Lord
Heinz Werner Zimmerman
- 14 Monday Cyril and Methodius, Monk & Bishop, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869, 885
- 15 Tuesday Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730

Wednesday, January 19th, 8:00 pm
CONCERTS AT ST. MARY'S presents
L'antica musica

JOEL FREDERIKSEN, bass-baritone
 GREGORY HAMILTON, theorbo and lute
 Music by Giovanni Felice Sances, Claudio Monteverdi, Stefano Landi, Guilio Caccini and Niccolo Piccinni
 Tickets: \$25 & \$20; for information call (212) 921-2939

Thursday, February 10th, 8:00 pm
CONCERTS AT ST. MARY'S presents
The Tallis Scholars, Peter Phillips director
 Music by Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina in recognition of the 400th anniversary of his death, including the *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri
 Tickets: \$25 & \$20; for information call (212) 921-2939
 Presented in association with Gotham Early Music Ltd.

LAY MINISTRIES AT ST. MARY'S

SAINT MARY'S GUILD

Sacred vessels and vestments are cared for by men and women working together on assigned weekends each month, and at other specified times. Of special importance is the restoration of older vestments in the parish. To volunteer, please contact one of the clergy.

THE CURSILLO COMMUNITY

A group of men and women dedicated to the building of Christian community within our parish life. Members meet weekly at various convenient times for the purpose of sharing their experience of the Christian life in small groups, and come together monthly as a large body for common worship, adoration, and the sharing of Christian fellowship. In the strictest sense this is not a parish organization but a movement of spiritual depth, grounded in the principles and teaching of Catholic Renewal in our own day. All parishioners are welcome.

SAINT VINCENT'S GUILD

Acolytes' Guild serving at Sunday and weekday services. Those interested should speak to the clergy. Guild members occasionally serve as Readers as well.

SAINT RAPHAEL'S GUILD

Ushers at parish services: Sunday morning and evenings, and on Feast days. Interested persons, men and women, should contact George Handy at (212) 757-1071.

SAINT MARTIN'S GUILD

Tours of the church are conducted after Sunday Solemn Mass, and Guild members are trained for this special ministry. If interested, please phone Philip Dean Parker at 582-0807.

BROTHER LAURENCE GUILD

Hosts and Hostesses in charge of refreshments after Solemn Mass on Sundays and Feast days, and at special parish meals. If interested, please phone George H. Blackshire at (718) 858-5797.

SAINT MARGARET'S GUILD

A guild devoted to prayer and study, focusing on issues within the Church, with a particular concern for those involving women. Interested women should contact Vera Guarino at (718) 335-5084.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

145 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-8591

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Please check within each appropriate box. This pledge may be changed by notifying the Treasurer.

Signature _____ Date _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ Zip _____