

# AVE

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

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Volume LXX, Number 4

July-August AD 2001

# AVE

*A Bulletin of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin  
in the City of New York*



**THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN**  
*145 West Forty-Sixth Street, New York City*

*The church is open on Sunday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM,  
Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and from 11:00 AM  
to 7:00 PM, and on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.*

**WORSHIP**

**The Holy Eucharist**

On Sunday, Mass is said at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. At 10:00 AM, Sung Mass is offered. At 11:00 AM, Solemn Mass is offered. Monday through Friday, Mass is said at 12:15 PM and 6:20 PM. On Saturday, Mass is said at 12:15 PM.

**The Daily Office**

On Sunday, Morning Prayer is said at 8:30 AM and Evening Prayer is said at 4:45 PM. Monday through Friday, Morning Prayer is said at 8:30 AM, the Noonday Office at 12:00 noon, and Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM. On Saturday, the Noonday Office is said at 12:00 noon and Evening Prayer at 5:00 PM.

**The Reconciliation of Penitents**

Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 11:30 AM to 12:00 noon and from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and by appointment at other times.

**DIRECTORY**

**The Parish Office**

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.  
Telephone: 212-869-5830. Facsimile: 212-869-7039.

Worldwide Website: [www.stmvirgin.org](http://www.stmvirgin.org) E-mail: [info@stmvirgin.org](mailto:info@stmvirgin.org)

**The Parish Clergy**

The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *rector*,  
The Reverend Allen Shin, *curate*, The Reverend Thomas Breidenthal, *assistant*,  
The Reverend Arthur Wolsoncroft, The Reverend Canon Maurice Garrison,  
The Reverend Amilcar Figueroa, The Reverend Rosemari G. Sullivan, *assisting priests*,  
The Reverend Canon Edgar F. Wells, *rector emeritus*.

**The Board of Trustees**

Mr. George Blackshire, Miss Linda Bridges, Mr. Howard Christian,  
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Mr. David Gillespie, Mrs. Barbara Klett, *treasurer*, Mr. Robin Landis,  
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**A Bulletin of**  
**THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN**  
**New York City**

Volume LXX, Number 4

July–August AD 2001

June 4, 2001

Dear Friends in Christ,

Yesterday the parish community celebrated Pentecost splendidly. At the Solemn Mass the choir, under the fine direction of our interim choral director, Andrew Adams, sang Arvo Pärt's hauntingly beautiful *Missa Syllabica*. The servers and ushers were out in force. There was a lovely reception after the Mass. Bishop C. Christopher Epting, ecumenical officer of the Episcopal Church, was celebrant and preacher. He confirmed and received new members. The remarkable spirit which is Saint Mary's was everywhere in evidence.

The postlude for the Mass was Duruflé's *Choral varié sur le thème du Veni Creator*, Op. 4. Not only was it played gracefully by our interim organist, Shayne Doty—and the crowd that regularly stays for his playing reflects a wide appreciation of his work and his gifts—but it was so right to have this particular piece on a Sunday when the congregation and choir had sung *Veni Creator* to this same tune in its proper place. Yes, the congregation and choir can sing the sequence hymn "Come, thou Holy Spirit, come," at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. It's sung only once a year. And like the liturgy itself, it flowed seamlessly from the realm of eternal Christian praise and worship, the endless round of adoration of the Most Holy Trinity in heaven and on earth.

Many of you will know that Father Allen Shin will be leaving us in September to take up doctoral studies in patristics at Oriel College, Oxford. We are very, very sad that he and his wife, Clara Mun, will be leaving us, but of course we are very, very happy for them. Father has served here since his ordination, first as the resident assistant and then as the first curate I called. I could have had no finer colleague these past two years. It was especially good for me as a new rector to have a curate who had been trained to be a celebrant by my predecessor. Father Shin's experience here at Saint Mary's has made it possible for me to be effective in ways that would not have been possible had he not been here.

The work to find a new curate is occupying quite a bit of my time these days. (For those of you who have access to the World Wide Web, the position description is

posted at [www.stmvirgin.org](http://www.stmvirgin.org).) I've been asked several times what kind of person I will be looking for. My answer is always, "The best priest I can find."

Many of you will also know that we are looking forward to the arrival of Robert McCormick as organist and music director on July 1. Robert graduated from Westminster Choir College in May with a bachelor's degree in organ performance *summa cum laude*. He was the unanimous choice of our music search committee and of the professional singers who were hired for the choral audition. (They even clapped when he finished!) Robert will play a recital before the Solemn Mass on Wednesday, August 15. I'm sure many in the metropolitan region will want to be here to hear him play.

**W**HILE trying not to sound like a song playing on the repeat cycle, I keep telling members of the congregation and staff that "Job One Is Parish Growth." Those of you who have read the annual financial report of the parish, which was made available to the congregation at the annual meeting in January and to our wider parish community in the May–June issue of *AVE*, will know that Saint Mary's cannot survive without a dramatic increase in the size of our parish community. Every Sunday, however, God is bringing people to our assembly, and new members bring others to the assembly.

There is a great joy abroad in the parish community these days. I think the parish can take a great deal of pride in its accomplishments during the last decade. And I think the parish senses the forward movement of our community. For a very long time the parish has had the slogan, "Saint Mary's opens her doors to all people." We have an increasing confidence that the doors will be here to be open to all in the years to come.

As I write, work is beginning on the restoration of Saint Joseph's Hall. I expect there will be a considerable amount of chaos around the church for the next few weeks. One learns to expect the unexpected in a project like this. And we are unable for the time being to have coffee hour after Mass. Even so, I hope that the summer will bring many of our friends from across the nation and around the world to us for worship on Sundays and on weekdays. The parish clergy and I want to meet you. Your prayers and gifts, like the prayers and gifts of the local parish community, sustain the particular witness to Christ's incarnate love for this world which is the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

God bless you in the summer months.

Yours faithfully,

*Stephen Gerth*

## Come, Holy Spirit

*The following sermon was preached on the Feast of Pentecost 2001 at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin by the Right Reverend C. Christopher Epting.*

**F**IRST OF ALL, let me say what a joy it is to preach for the first time in my new parish. When I knew for sure that I would be relocating to New York to take up my new position as the Presiding Bishop's Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, there was never any serious doubt in my mind that I would want St. Mary's to be my new church home. As co-patron of the North American chapter of Affirming Catholicism, a renewal movement of catholic faith and practice within the Episcopal Church, I wanted the rich sacramental and liturgical tradition of this historic parish. And I knew of Father Gerth's leadership here from a mutual friend in Florida, who was the finest curate I ever had in my twenty years of parish ministry. So I knew this was where I wanted to be, and I'm looking forward to being as much a part of your life here as my extensive travel schedule will permit.

It is also good to be here on the Feast of Pentecost (which we used to call Whitsunday), sometimes known as the birthday of the Christian Church. Whether or not



it is properly observed as the birthday of the Church, certainly the enormous change and renewal which took place in the life of those earliest Christians when God's Holy Spirit was poured out upon them deserves a special celebration such as the one in which we are engaged here today.

The Proper Lessons assigned for this feast also give me the opportunity (as a new ecumenical officer for the Episcopal Church) to say that I believe that ecumenism, and the search for the unity of the Church, is not just a luxury for catholic Christians—it is our duty! We are to work and pray for the reunion of Christ's shattered Body, not because it is trendy or politically or ecclesially "correct," but because there is only one Church. It is the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Paradoxically, we are part of it—and yet it really doesn't exist yet. Except in God's imagination!

In our first lesson today, from Acts, the Spirit of the living God effects in an instant

what we talk about, and yearn for, and pray for in the Church and in the world: unity in diversity. The Parthians and the Medes and the Elamites and the residents of Mesopotamia in the story do not suddenly become some kind of bland mixture of races and peoples. They do not lose their particularity, their singularity. They do not even begin to speak one language. Rather, they are suddenly able to “hear” in their own languages the apostles “speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

The ecumenical movement of today no longer seeks to create some super- or mega-Church, some bland mixture of lowest common denominators of the various Christian expressions. If you’ve ever been to a community Thanksgiving service you will know how unsatisfying that approach to church unity can be! No, today we speak of a “communion of communions” as the goal of ecumenism. Would the world really be any richer or better off if there was no Roman Catholic universality, no Eastern Orthodox spirituality, no Anglican liturgy, no Methodist social witness, no evangelical zeal for the Gospel and for the salvation of souls?

I don’t think so. What is needed, I believe, is that “communion of communions” in which there is agreement on the fundamentals of catholic Christianity, full interchangeability of ministers and ministries, and, of course, full eucharistic hospitality, in which we are welcomed at each other’s altars in at least as full a way as we are now welcomed at each other’s baptismal fonts. In short, we need what St. Paul describes in our second lesson as “varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit . . . varieties of services, but the same Lord.”

In order for that to happen, however, we will need a Pentecostal dose of God’s Holy Spirit in all the churches. We need the theological discussions (and I’ll be engaging in lots of these). We need the conciliar associations like the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. We need grassroots ecumenism of the sort in which I was engaged for thirteen years as Bishop of Iowa, in which Christian individuals and congregations cooperated in everything from relief efforts for flood victims to not once, not twice, but three times banding together to beat back the governor’s efforts



to reinstate the death penalty in Iowa. Without the churches’ common witness, we could never have won that battle.

But we also need the Presence, the Peace, the Breath, and the forgiveness of the Risen Christ as described in today’s Gospel if we are ever to be truly the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of the Creeds. “When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked . . . Jesus came and stood among them and said ‘Peace be with you’ . . . When he had said this he breathed on them and said . . . ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

In other words, we need to seek the forgiveness of God for the many ways in which we have contributed to the brokenness of his Son’s Body. That includes confessing the corporate sins of history—the times when we have chosen schism over the patient and prayerful renewal of the Church from within—and it includes confessing our personal sins of today—the times in which we make snide and unkind remarks about our sisters and brothers of other denominations, a sin to which Episcopalians and Anglicans are particularly prone, I am sorry to say.

SO, on this Feast of Pentecost, I bid your prayers for the unity of the Church, and for our Presiding Bishop, who is the chief ecumenical officer of the Episcopal Church and who, in his role as co-chair of the international dialogue between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Communions, is a well-known and well-respected ecumenist. And I covet your prayers for myself and my own work (now that I am a fellow parishioner here at St. Mary’s!), that I may find, in this new work, new ways to fulfill my ordination vows as a Bishop in the Church of God to “encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries” and, at the same time, to “guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church.”

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit from the very breath of the Risen Christ, let us bow our heads now as we pray:

“O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## Processiontide

Saint Mary's had no episcopal visitation at the Great Vigil this year, but we made up for it during "Processiontide" (as Father Garfield, our 7th Rector, called this period). The Right Reverend Catherine S. Roskam was our celebrant and preacher on the Feast of the Ascension, when we had one Confirmation, one Reception, and one Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Ten days later, on the Feast of Pentecost, our celebrant and preacher was the Right Reverend C. Christopher Epting, whose sermon appears in this issue of AVE. He confirmed one new member of the parish and received three more. Bishop Epting was traveling on Church business in the interim, but he returned in time for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, at which he presided.

Ascension was also the occasion for a formal reception in honor of Andrew Adams, our Interim Choral Director, and Shayne Doty, our Interim Organist. The choir's season ended with a glorious celebration of Corpus Christi, including the premiere of a motet, "Panem de Coelo," by parishioner Rick Austill. We shall next hear the choir on the Feast of the Assumption, with our new Organist and Music Director, Robert McCormick.  
—Linda Bridges



*"May the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom."*

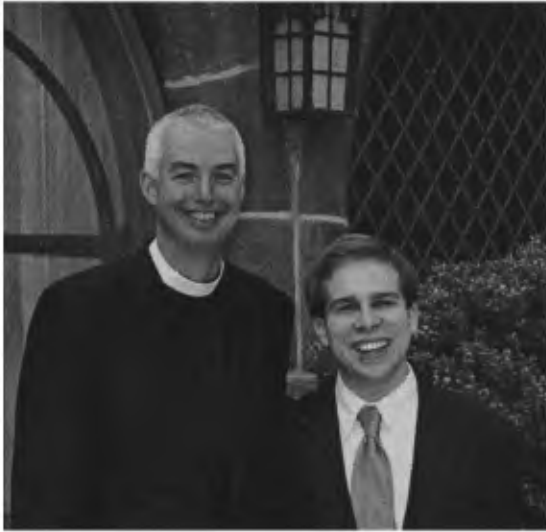
Photos by Alice V. Manning



*Shayne Doty (left) and Andrew Adams with Father Gerth and Father Shin at the reception following the Feast of the Ascension*



*Fathers Gerth and Shin preparing to present new Prayer Books to (from left to right) Rick Austill, who renewed his baptismal vows, Noel Hennelly, who was received into this Communion, and Elizabeth Gillespie, who was confirmed*



*Father Gerth and Robert McCormick, following Robert's graduation from Westminster Choir College.*

Photo by John Beddingfield

*Bishop Roskam, Celebrant, and seminarian Jennifer Reddall, Subdeacon, on the Feast of the Ascension*



Photo by Alice V. Manning

## Have You Met?

**H**AVE you met the two newest members of the Board of Trustees, Fred G. Peelen and Terrance O'Dwyer? (Actually, they aren't strictly "new" by now, having joined the Board in February, but this has been our first opportunity to present them formally.) Both are also comparatively new members of the parish, although each had worshipped here occasionally for a number of years. Each has gifts that we very much need as we make plans for the future use of our buildings, especially the Mission House, and as we continue working to strengthen the parish's finances.

Buildings and their occupants are Fred Peelen's business: his training and experience are in hotel management, starting with a BA from The Hague Hotel School in his native Netherlands and going on to advanced degrees from Cornell's School of Hotel Administration and Harvard's Graduate School of Business Administration. Fred was with Inter-Continental Hotels for 35 years until his retirement last year; upon retiring he promptly founded his own company, International Hospitality Consultants, specializing in matters such as contract reviews and quality-assurance programs.

The list of Fred's postings over the years shows how apt the name "Inter-Continental" is; to name a few: Dhaka, Bangladesh; Nairobi, Kenya; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Hamburg, Germany; Paris, France. In 1981 he came to New York City as Regional Vice President and Managing Director of the Hotel Inter-Continental New York. He was responsible for the multi-million-dollar restoration of the Hotel Inter-Continental New York and the restoration and reopening of the Willard Inter-Continental in Washington, D.C. In 1990 he was named President—Americas for Inter-Continental and its sister company, Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts. In this post, he oversaw all of Inter-Continental's and Crowne's properties in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Central and South America. He has received honors from a number of countries, including Italy, the Ivory Coast, Venezuela, and Colombia. In 1996, he was named chairman of Inter-Continental's 50th Anniversary Committee, whose activities included raising a million dollars for UNICEF.

Fred, who was brought up Dutch Reformed, had been an occasional worshipper at Saint Mary's for years, as his travel schedule permitted. A year and a half ago he formally became a member of Saint Mary's.

**T**ERRY O'DWYER'S background is financial. He spent 12 years on the finance and strategic-planning side of International Paper Company before moving to Prudential Securities, where he has been for the last 14 years; his current title is First Vice President, Fixed Income Strategy and Research.

Terry is a New Yorker born and bred, with degrees from Fordham (BA) and

Columbia's Graduate School of Business (MBA). But over the years, for both employers, his work has taken him around the world, from Finland to Australia, from Argentina and Brazil to Korea and Japan.

Although he joined the Board of Trustees only this February, Saint Mary's has benefited from his experience for more than a year: he became the first chairman of the new Investment Committee, formed to oversee the work of our outside investment professionals. In fact, readers of *AVE* have met Terry before—he produced the Investment Committee report for the annual parish meeting this January, which was published in the May–June issue of *AVE*.

Terry first discovered Saint Mary's when International Paper moved to new quarters just around the corner, at 45th and Sixth. He recalls that he came to Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany 1981 and, as he puts it, "I simply went off the charts, especially coming from a Roman Catholic parish that was becoming increasingly Charismatic." He and, later, his wife, Donna, started coming to Saint Mary's for major feast days "when we needed a spiritual 'fix.'" Gradually, especially once their children were grown and gone, they started making the trip in from Mount Vernon more and more often, "and I guess the rest is history." Terry and Donna were faithful members of Father Shin's catechumenal class in 1999–2000, culminating in their Reception into the Episcopal Church at the Great Vigil, 2000. In writing of his experience of Saint Mary's, Terry adds, "It has been a great source of comfort for me to hear Stephen and Allen speak about doubts from the pulpit. God knows, I am one of the bigger doubters around, and it is reassuring to know that I am not alone."

—Linda Bridges



Photo by Linda Bridges

Fred Peelen (left) and Terry O'Dwyer, with the 1st Rector

## THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

*Wednesday, August 15*



**5:30 PM: Inaugural Recital**

**Robert McCormick**

*Organist and Music Director*

**6 PM: Procession and Solemn Mass**

**Celebrant and Preacher: The Rector**

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO AVE

*received with thanksgiving*

Please make checks payable to the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

Peter Yeager & Harry Utz, \$25; Onva Boshears, \$50; Roy Andrew Miller, \$25; Kathleen Hanna, \$20; James A. Wood, \$25; the Rev. Barry Griffin, \$25; the Rt. Rev. James W. Montgomery, \$25; Alfred A. Ashburn, \$35; the Rev. Laurence Le Seure, \$30; and the Rev. Peter Chase, \$50.

*Reminder to our Canadian friends: Our bank will accept only international bank drafts denominated in U.S. dollars, or checks drawn in U.S. dollars on an American bank or the American branch of a Canadian bank.*

### 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 46th Street, New York City, [here state the nature or amount of the gift].



## THE CALENDAR FOR JULY



1 Su	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
2 M	Weekday
3 Tu	Weekday
4 W	Independence Day <i>Federal holiday: one Mass only, at 12:15 PM</i>
5 Th	Weekday
6 F	Weekday
7 Sa	Of Our Lady
8 Su	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
9 M	Weekday
10 Tu	Weekday
11 W	Benedict of Nursia, <i>abbot</i>
12 Th	Weekday
13 F	Weekday
14 Sa	Of Our Lady
15 Su	<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
16 M	Weekday
17 Tu	William White, <i>bishop</i>
18 W	Weekday
19 Th	Macrina, <i>monastic</i>
20 F	Weekday
21 Sa	Of Our Lady
22 Su	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
23 M	<b>Saint Mary Magdalene</b> ( <i>transferred</i> )
24 Tu	Thomas à Kempis, <i>priest</i> EVE OF SAINT JAMES'S DAY 6:00 PM
25 W	<b>Saint James the Apostle</b>
26 Th	The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27 F	William Reed Huntington, <i>priest</i>
28 Sa	Of Our Lady
29 Su	<b>THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
30 M	William Wilberforce, <i>abolitionist</i>
31 Tu	Ignatius of Loyola, <i>priest</i>

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Federal Holiday Schedule: On ordinary federal holidays the parish office is closed and the only public service is the 12:15 PM Mass.*



## THE CALENDAR FOR AUGUST



1 W	Joseph of Arimathea
2 Th	Weekday
3 F	Weekday
4 Sa	Jean Marie Vianney, <i>priest</i>
5 Su	<b>THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
6 M	<b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b>
7 Tu	John Mason Neale, <i>priest</i>
8 W	Dominic, <i>priest and friar</i>
9 Th	Weekday
10 F	Laurence, <i>deacon and martyr</i>
11 Sa	Clare, <i>abbess</i>
12 Su	<b>THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
13 M	Jeremy Taylor, <i>bishop</i>
14 Tu	Jonathan Myrick Daniels, <i>seminarian</i> ASSUMPTION EVE 6:00 PM
15 W	<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> PROCESSION & SOLEMN MASS 6:00 PM
16 Th	Weekday
17 F	Weekday
18 Sa	William Porcher DuBose, <i>priest</i>
19 Su	<b>THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
20 M	Bernard of Clairvaux, <i>abbot</i>
21 Tu	Weekday
22 W	Weekday
23 Th	Weekday EVE OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY 6:00 PM
24 F	<b>Saint Bartholomew the Apostle</b>
25 Sa	Louis, <i>king</i>
26 Su	<b>THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
27 M	Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Syle, <i>missionaries</i>
28 Tu	Augustine of Hippo, <i>bishop</i>
29 W	The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
30 Th	Weekday
31 F	Aidan, <i>bishop</i>

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Abstinence*

*Friday Abstinence: The ordinary Fridays of the year are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial in commemoration of the crucifixion of the Lord.*