

Volume LXXII, Number 5

September–October AD 2003

AVE

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



AVE

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

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

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

WORSHIP

The Holy Eucharist

On Sunday, Mass is said at 9:00 AM; Sung Mass is offered at 10:00 AM and Solemn Mass at 11:00 AM. 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 Solemn Evensong and Benediction is offered at 5:00 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 is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

Telephone: 212-869-5830 Facsimile: 212-869-7039

Worldwide Website: www.stmvmv.org E-mail: info@stmvmv.org

The Parish Clergy

The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *rector*,

The Reverend John Beddingfield, *curate*,

The Reverend Rosemari G. Sullivan, *assisting priest*,

The Reverend John Kilgore, *assisting deacon*,

The Reverend Canon Edgar F. Wells, *rector emeritus*.

The Parish Staff

Mr. Vince Amodei, *bookkeeper*, Mr. Mervin Garraway, *building superintendent*,

Ms. Sandra Schubert, *administrative assistant*,

Mr. John Hamilton & Ms. Clare Nesmith, *seminarians*,

Mr. Robert McCormick, *organist & music director*, Mr. Robert McDermitt, *assistant organist*.

The Board of Trustees

Mr. Howard W. Christian, Ms. Gloria Fitzgerald, The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *president*,

Mr. David Gillespie, Mrs. Barbara Klett, *treasurer*, Mr. Robin Landis, *vice president*,

Mr. Robert Loper, Mr. Terrance O'Dwyer, Mr. Fred G. Peelen, Dr. Leroy Sharer, *secretary*.

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September 23, 2003

Dear Friends in Christ,

The sesquicentennial of the Oxford Movement happened while I was in seminary. I remember buying a poster at the time that had pictures of the Movement's first leaders with a quotation from one of them about how to accomplish things. The phrase I remember so well is, "I'm sure the apostles did not sit still." There are periods in the life of this publication when delays are unavoidable. In large part, this is because of the volume of activity in our parish life and the personal and professional lives of those who pull AVE together. Saint Mary's is not a place where we sit still very often. This is an active parish community with a rich life.

One of our former curates remarked, "We worship beyond our means." One could also say, regarding the financial history of this parish, we live beyond our means. The parish has always been a place where the commitment to Christ and to his Church has meant sacrifice and faith. With God's grace and with the prayers and support of so many, I believe Saint Mary's will always be a place where Christ is proclaimed and lived.

The blackout on August 14 did not stop Saint Mary's from celebrating the Assumption. Yes, electrical power in Times Square was restored shortly after 8:00 AM on August 15. But we did not know if there would be a choir. We did not know if Bishop Andrew St. John, interim rector of Holy Trinity Church in New York City, would be able to be here to celebrate and preach. We did not know who would come to the Solemn Mass. The subways would not run until the following morning. Yet, it turned out to be a feast those of us who were here will never forget. Bishop St. John made it. The choir made it. Ushers and servers made it. The Rheinberger *Cantus Missae* was superb. People walked to get here. It was just splendid. This would not have been possible without the hearts of so many being so in love with Jesus Christ and his work in this place.

This month we have said goodbye to Father Jay Smith, who has returned to New Haven to finish his work on his dissertation. Father preached and celebrated the

Solemn Mass on Sunday, September 14, Holy Cross Day. This is the second time Father has left us since I've been here! This time we did not say, "Goodbye." The parish community said to him, "See you later." We hope very, very much that the Lord may bring him back to us at some point in the future.

Our newest curate, Father John Beddingfield, was ordained priest at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on Saturday, September 20. Father's first Mass was the Solemn Mass on Sunday, September 21. It was a wonderful weekend for all of us. Father was clothed as a priest for the first time in the chasuble of our Marian set—and every member of the parish at the Cathedral knew what it was. It stood out in the very best way.

There were a number of seminarians here for the ordination and for Father's first Mass, including Ryan Lesh, who is a postulant from this parish and is studying at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and Matthew Mead, who is completing his last year of study at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University. Matthew will come to us as a curate when he graduates from seminary next summer. During the Mass on Sunday I was a concelebrant and was seated next to Father Smith (yes, he was back again!) in the sanctuary. Matthew was sitting in the chancel on the other side. A year from now Matthew will be celebrating his first Mass among us. Time will pass all too quickly.

Many of you will recall that although I never visited Saint Mary's before coming to be interviewed for my current position, I had been a reader of AVE since meeting and corresponding briefly with Father Wells when I was a student at Nashotah House. I had visited New York only very briefly before this time as well. I remember

wondering from afar why it is that things in New York City don't seem really to start in the fall until October. It seemed that everywhere else things really got rolling when school started. I think I've come to understand that in September, New Yorkers are trying to hold off just a little from the beginning of the frenetic activity that characterizes life here from October through June.

I can hardly wait for the music season to start on the first Sunday in October. This is the beginning of Robert McCormick's third year with us. With his amazing gifts, music at Saint Mary's is back in a big way. The choir is outstandingly good. It's going to be a great year.



Photo by Alice V. Manning

Father Beddingfield's first Mass

We have many guests this fall, as you can see in the Calendar. In addition, on Sunday, November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, the Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk, the Bishop of New York, will be with us to preach at Solemn Evensong & Benediction. And I've just learned that the Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, will be with us as celebrant on our patronal feast, Monday, December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

I believe in the witness of this parish community. Great liturgical worship can proclaim Christ and serve Christ in ways which transform men and women in their relationship with God and with each other. I thank you for your prayers and gifts, which enable this rich and rare witness to flourish in Times Square.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Coeuth

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AVE

received with thanksgiving

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

John Moran, \$25; James Merold, \$25; George Briggs, \$50; the Venerable Peter Hannen, \$20; George Handy, \$25; Irene McCormick, "in honor of my grandson, Robert McCormick, on his 25th birthday," \$25; Rosemary Kulp, \$20; Philip Parker, \$30; Leroy Sharer, \$50; the Reverend Charles Whipple, \$25; George Gosden, \$100; John Weiser, \$25; Alan Maynard, \$25; J. Harrison Walker, \$25; Ian Brett, \$25; Linda Bridges, \$25; and Dale Bonenberger, \$25.

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.

Note to all our friends: AVE depends on your contributions. If you have not renewed your subscription in the past year, please remember to do so as soon as possible.

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].

Never the Same Again

The following sermon was preached at Saint Mary's by Father Jay Smith on the last Sunday after Epiphany, March 2, 2003.

THE STORY of the Transfiguration is a strong and powerful thing. It resists interpretation. Is it a mystery or a revelation? Is it opaque or translucent? Does it interrupt the gospel story or does it make sense of all that precedes it and all that follows? The story of the Transfiguration is a powerful thing, deep and inexhaustible. The Fathers and their medieval successors knew that. They liked this story. They talked about it, struggled with it, preached it, taught it. They found more than a single meaning in it. For some, the vision is dazzling but incomplete. The curtain goes up, the veil comes off, and the disciples can see, but what exactly do they see? They aren't certain, and they're afraid. They want more, but the curtain comes down and the vision ends. But still, the vision was real, pointing beyond itself to God's indescribable glory, to mysteries waiting to be solved, questions still without answers.



Photos by Alice V. Manning

This and following pages: Father Smith as celebrant and preacher, summer of 2003

But the Fathers are not satisfied with that interpretation. They acknowledge the mystery but can't help focusing on the revelation—the light, the vision. The veil has come off and never goes back on—not really, not in the same way. In that moment, the disciples see Jesus as he really is—the Son of God, human *and* divine, his divinity shining forth, visible and dazzling. In that moment they see his glory, but what they do not, and cannot, know is that they will see that glory again when they see him as the risen Lord.

In the end, that is the Fathers' favorite reading of this story. On that mountain, the disciples witness our Lord's glory, preparing them to endure the cross by giving them a glimpse of the resurrection.

So often our lives are filled with mysteries, questions, doubts, shadows, uncertainties. We feel that with particular urgency at the present moment. The veil seems utterly fixed, permanent, opaque, made of mesh, woven out of steel; and yet *suddenly* there is sight, vision, a *new creation*. An example: Parents give birth to a child. He is theirs, their very own. But suddenly they see: This child is not of their own making. *They* did not create this child. Not really. He is a gift. A gift from God.

It is odd, this grace, this vision. It comes unexpectedly and sometimes in small things, everyday things, very far from the mountaintop: small kindnesses; forgiving what seemed unforgivable; some new skill, each one a kind of victory: learning to swim, to dance, to swing a thurible, to ride a bike; longer days and an end to winter; a song from your past; work that you love; lightning bugs in the garden; peace at prayer. Suddenly the veil comes off and there is vision. And we are never quite the same afterwards.



IN A FEW minutes we are going to baptize a child. Baptism is a rite, a ritual, a sacrament, built out of everyday things: water, oil, words, music, and candlelight; a simple white garment; and *us*, the Body of Christ. And in all of that there is glory, lying just beneath the surface; or better, there is glory shining *through* those things—turning them into symbols of transfiguration, pointing the way to resurrection.

The Venerable Bede described the Transfiguration in this way, “When the Lord was transfigured before the disciples he revealed to them the glory of his own body which was to be manifested through the resurrection. He shows how great will be the splendor of the future bodies of the elect after the resurrection. On this matter he says elsewhere: Then shall the just shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father, and here as a sign of his own future splendor his face is as radiant as the sun.”*

What a strange and wonderful interpretation. On that mountaintop Jesus shows us not only his own resurrection, but ours as well. This morning I cannot help thinking that it is *baptism* that is the key to the interpretation. Because baptism unites us to Christ, linking *our* destiny to his. Baptism gives us strength in the present and hope for the future by *uniting us* to the Risen One. St. Paul puts it this way, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried . . . with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”** “Newness of life.” Risen life. Life empowered by the Spirit.

* Quoted in John A. McGuckin, *The Transfiguration of Christ in Scripture and Tradition* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1986), pp. 124–25.

** Romans 6:3–5.

We gather here this morning to baptize William Bingham. We gather this very morning in early March, and it is *we* who gather—this *specific* portion of the body of Christ and no other, with all our strengths and despite our limitations. And we do so because we believe that in the font there is new life, there is *resurrection*.

What a remarkable vision; what a glorious faith. One of the Fathers, St. Ephrem the Syrian, a poet and writer of hymns, describes the vision this way: “In your bread is hidden a spirit not to be eaten, in your wine dwells a fire not to be drunk. Spirit in your bread, fire in your wine, a wonder set apart, [yet] received by our lips! See, fire and spirit in the womb that bore you! See, fire and spirit in the river where you were baptized! Fire and spirit in our baptism; in the bread and the cup, fire and holy spirit!”

As we join William at the font and at the rail this morning, united by the baptism that we share with him, let us pray that God will grant us the gift of vision, lifting the veil, showing us the fire and the spirit that lie within, just beneath the surface. In the water and the oil. In the bread and in the wine. And in one another’s hearts.



Christian Formation at Saint Mary’s

THIS FALL, Saint Mary’s resumes Christian Formation classes on Wednesday evenings. From September 17 to October 8 we are privileged to have the Right Reverend Richard F. Grein teaching a class on the Gospel of Mark. Bishop Grein, a gifted and knowledgeable teacher, is the XIVth Bishop of New York. The class will discuss such questions as “Why did someone we call ‘Mark’ invent what we call a ‘gospel account of the life of Jesus’? In using the material available to him, how does he portray Jesus? What is asked by Jesus of those who will follow Him?” The class will also serve as an introduction to various critical methods for interpreting and studying Holy Scripture.

For two Wednesday evenings we will look at the life and writings of Saint Teresa of Avila. One of our seminarians, Ms. Clare Nesmith, will lead the class on October 15, the feast day for Teresa. Father Beddingfield will lead the class on October 22 as we look at some of Teresa’s writings on the spiritual life and on prayer.

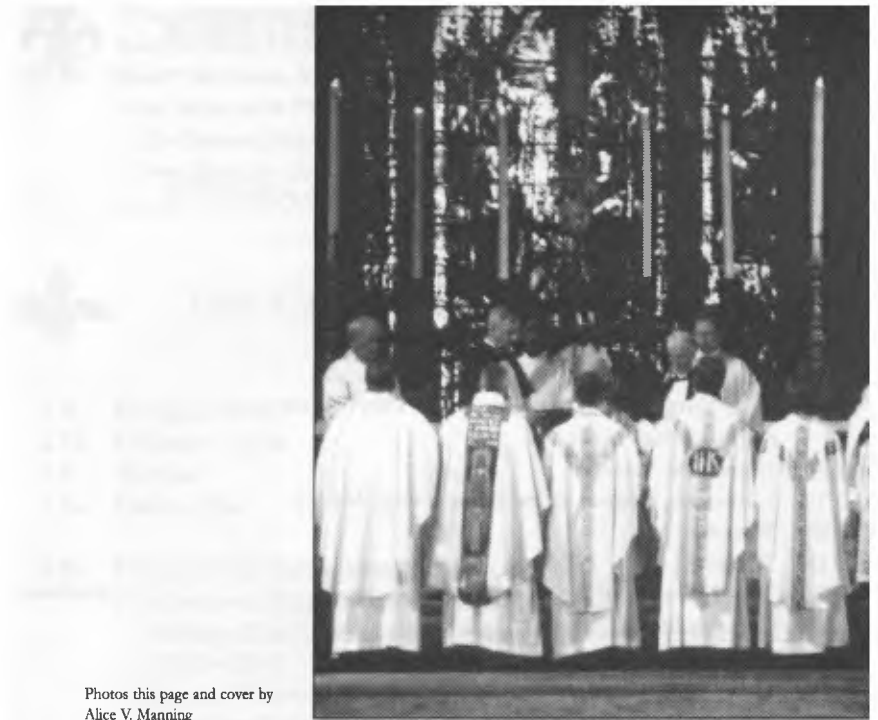
Beginning on October 29 and continuing through November 19, our parishioner Joe Pearson will lead a study entitled, “In Wisdom’s House: The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament.” Professor Pearson, who teaches in the department of theology at Fordham University, has organized the weeks as follows: Week 1, Ecclesiastes: “What is wisdom for us?” Week 2, Job 1–19: “Where is God in our suffering?” Week 3, Job 20–42: “A voice in the whirlwind.” Week 4, The Song of Songs: “The dark bride in the garden of delight.”

Since Wednesday, November 26, is Thanksgiving Eve, there will not be a class that evening.

The season will conclude with two classes on Mary Magdalene, led by Joan Baldrige, a friend of Saint Mary’s. Ms. Baldrige is a Master’s candidate at the Gallatin School of New York University, studying the figure of Mary Magdalene in art history. On both evenings, we will explore some of the factors that influenced the ways in which Saint Mary Magdalene was portrayed in the first fifteen centuries of Christian art. Ms. Baldrige’s discussion will emphasize the art of the fourteenth century, during which the cult of Mary Magdalene reached its peak. (A related event is the Advent Quiet Day at Saint Mary’s on Saturday, December 6. The mini-retreat will be led by Father Beddingfield with meditations on three Marys: Saint Mary the Virgin, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Bethany.)

Scenes from an Ordination

On September 20, 2003, John Floyd Beddingfield was one of five candidates from the Diocese of New York ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Mark Sisk at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.



Photos this page and cover by
Alice V. Manning





THE CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER



- 1 M David Oakerhater, *Deacon & Missionary*
Labor Day (*Federal holiday schedule: one Mass only, at 12:15 PM*)
- 2 Tu Martyrs of New Guinea
- 3 W Weekday
- 4 Th Weekday
- 5 F Weekday
- 6 Sa Of Our Lady *Abstinence*
- 7 SU **THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
- 8 M Nativity of Mary
- 9 Tu Constance, *Religious*, & her companions, *Martyrs*
- 10 W Weekday
- 11 Th Weekday
- 12 F John Hobart, *Bishop* *Abstinence*
- 13 Sa Cyprian, *Bishop & Martyr*
- 14 SU **HOLY CROSS DAY**
SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
A relic of the True Cross will be offered for veneration by the faithful in the Lady Chapel following Mass
- 15 M Weekday
- 16 Tu Ninian, *Bishop*
- 17 W Hildegard, *Abbess*
- 18 Th Edward Pusey, *Priest*
- 19 F Theodore, *Archbishop* *Abstinence*
- 20 Sa J. Patteson, *Bishop*
Today only, Mass will be said at 8:30 AM so that all the parish community may attend the ordination of priests at the Cathedral. Confessions will not be heard except by appointment. Evening Prayer will be offered at 5:00 PM.
- 21 SU **THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
Father Beddingfield's first celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- 22 M **SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**
- 23 Tu Weekday
- 24 W Weekday
- 25 Th Sergius, *Abbot*
- 26 F Lancelot Andrewes, *Bishop* *Abstinence*
- 27 Sa Vincent de Paul, *Priest*

- 28 SU **THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
- 29 M **SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**
SUNG MASS 6:00 PM
The Reverend Mary E. Haddad, Associate Rector, Saint Bartholomew's Church, New York City, Celebrant & Preacher
- 30 Tu Jerome, *Priest & Monk*



THE CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER



- 1 W Remigius, *Bishop*
- 2 Th Guardian Angels
- 3 F Weekday *Abstinence*
- 4 Sa Francis, *Friar*
- 5 SU **FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH**
PROCESSION & SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
Ordinary: *Missa "Aeterna Christi Munera,"* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)
Anthem: O Lord, I have loved the habitation of thine house, Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656)
SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 5:00 PM
Phos Hilaron: Hail, gladdening light, Charles Wood (1866–1926)
Canticles: Evening Service in D, George Dyson (1883–1964)
Anthem: Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, Malcolm C. Boyle (1902–1976)
Hymns: *O salutaris Hostia* (No. 1 in E-flat), Edward Elgar (1857–1934)
Tantum ergo, George Henschel (1850–1934)
The Reverend Peter Galloway, Vicar, Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead, London, Preacher
- 6 M William Tyndale, *Priest*
- 7 Tu Weekday
- 8 W Weekday
- 9 Th Robert Grosseteste, *Bishop*
- 10 F Weekday *Abstinence*
- 11 Sa Of Our Lady
- 12 SU **THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM
Ordinary: *Missa orbis factor*, Gerald Near (b. 1942)
Anthem: Lay not up for yourselves, Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 5:00 PM

*The Right Reverend E. Don Taylor, Vicar Bishop for New York City,
Officiant & Preacher*

13 M Weekday

Columbus Day (*Federal holiday schedule: One Mass only, at 12:15 PM*)

14 Tu Samuel I. J. Schereschewsky, *Bishop*

15 W Teresa of Avila, *Religious*

16 Th Weekday



Photo by Alice V. Manning

*The Right Reverend Andrew St. John as celebrant on the Feast of the Assumption.
Deacon John Beddingfield as deacon of the Mass, seminarian Matthew Mead
as subdeacon*

17 F Ignatius, *Bishop*

Abstinence

Eve of Saint Luke's Day 6:00 PM

18 SA **SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

19 SU **THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM

Ordinary: *Missa "Le bien que j'ai,"* Claude Goudimel (c. 1514–1572)

Motet: *Pater noster,* Jacob Handl (1550–1591)

SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 5:00 PM

*Solemn Evensong & Benediction is sung this evening by the Choir of Men and
Women of Saint Peter's Church, Morristown, New Jersey (Mr. Anthony Pinel,
organist & director of music).*

20 M Weekday

21 Tu Weekday

22 W Weekday

Eve of Saint James' Day 6:00 PM

23 TH **SAINT JAMES OF JERUSALEM**

24 F Weekday

Abstinence

25 Sa Of Our Lady

26 SU **THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

SOLEMN MASS 11:00 AM

Ordinary: Gospel Mass, Robert Ray (b. 1946)

Anthem: Here's one, arranged by Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 5:00 PM

27 M Weekday

Eve of Saint Simon & Saint Jude 6:00 PM

28 TU **SAINT SIMON & SAINT JUDE**

29 W James Hannington, *Bishop*, and his companions, *Martyrs*

30 Th Weekday

31 F Weekday

Abstinence dispensed after the evening Mass

EVE OF ALL SAINTS' DAY

Organ Recital by Eugene Roan and John Burkhalter 5:30 PM

PROCESSION & SOLEMN MASS 6:00 PM

Ordinary: *The Mass "Euge Bone,"* Christopher Tye (c. 1502–c. 1572)

Motet: *O quam gloriosum,* William Byrd (1543–1623)

*The Reverend Ralph N. McMichael, Theologian in Residence, The Church of Saint
Michael and Saint George, St. Louis, Missouri, Preacher*

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.*

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