

# FOR ALL THE SAINTS

December 2024 | January 2025



## A New Church Year

A publication of ALL SAINTS' CHURCH: *An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego*

## ALL SAINTS' MISSION STATEMENT

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

## OUR VISION

*"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gifts
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

On the cover: The 2025 Church Calendar

# IN THIS ISSUE

---

## **From Your Rector**

A New Church Year..... 1

## **Parish Life**

Treasurer's Report..... 4

## **Calendar of Events**

All Saints' Masses and Gatherings..... 6

December 2024..... 7

January 2025..... 9

## **Parish Life**

Life Story of Members of All Saints' ..... 11

Christmas at All Saints' ..... 15

Vestry Nominations..... 17

San Diego Music Coterie Concert ..... 17

Arts and Crafts Sale..... 18

## **Commemorations**

Dorothy L. Sayers, Apologist and Spiritual Writer..... 19

John Chrysostom, Bishop and Theologian..... 24

# FROM YOUR RECTOR

## A New Church Year



As we stand on the threshold of the new Church Year, with Advent heralding the season of waiting and hope, and the calendar turning to a new secular year in January, we are reminded of the cycles of time that shape our lives and our faith. Both of these transitions offer us a powerful invitation to reflect—not only on the past but on the future as well. What does it mean for us, as a community of faith, to enter into this

"new year" with a spirit of renewal?

Advent, the season in which we begin our liturgical year, invites us into a time of preparation and expectation. We look forward to the coming of Christ, not only in the manger at Bethlehem but also and more importantly, in our lives and in the world. This is a time when we remember the power of anticipation, the joy of the "new," and the possibility of transformation. And yet, Advent also calls us to reflect on the ways we have fallen short of God's ideal for us and to prepare our hearts for the work of reconciliation and healing.

As a parish, we have been shaped by our traditions and our shared history. The liturgy we uphold, the sacraments we celebrate, and the way we serve our community—these all form the bedrock of our identity. But like the world around us, we too are at a crossroads. In recent years, we have witnessed shifts in our community: demographic changes, cultural movements, and the ongoing challenges facing the Church today. These shifts are not just external realities but are also deeply felt in our own congregation.

In light of these challenges, it is time for us to consider a "new way of being"—a

# FROM YOUR RECTOR

(continued)

revitalization of our identity and mission as a local church, which by no means implies abandoning our core of sound biblical, theological, and liturgical foundation. The call to reconciliation is more urgent than ever, and it is not just about outreach, but about inward renewal. We must ask ourselves: How can we, as a church, offer a meaningful presence to those around us? How can we carry out our reconciling mission in ways that speak to the needs of today, while still being deeply rooted in the rich Anglican tradition we cherish?

In the secular New Year, people around the world make resolutions: to start anew, to take stock, and to commit to change. What if we, too, made some resolutions for our parish community? As we enter into the new Church Year, let us take this opportunity to ask what kind of church we want to be. How can we renew our commitment to worship, community life, and service in ways that are vibrant and relevant to our present context?

- **Worship:** Our liturgy is a source of strength and identity, but how can we make our worship more accessible and welcoming to new generations, while still preserving the sacred beauty that defines us? This is a matter for careful and serious consideration by the congregation, and having useful feedback from all members can be of great help.
- **Community Life:** A strong parish thrives on relationships. How can we deepen the sense of community within our congregation, fostering a space where each person feels seen, heard, and valued?
- **Service:** Our call to reconciliation extends beyond the walls of our church. What new opportunities can we create to serve those in need, both locally and globally? How can we embody Christ's love in the ways we reach out to our neighbors?

We are aware that our parish has done and continues to do things that foster community life and service, but we should still strive to find ways of enhancing our ministries in these two areas.

Our recent past history—during the peak of the Covid-19 epidemic—clearly showed us how the will to make worship possible for our parishioners forced us to adapt, change, and innovate. Obviously we do not miss that period, but we need to acknowledge that it left

# FROM YOUR RECTOR

---

(continued)

us some positive aspects too: the livestreaming and recording of our services, and the use of some online meetings and services. It also taught us a good lesson: when the need arises, change and innovation do take place.

As part of this revitalization process, we encourage all parishioners to take part in a survey that will soon be available. Taking some minutes to fill it out prayerfully and with all honesty will make a difference, since it will give us a better idea of what the prevailing thoughts of our congregation are at present, and what ideas for revitalization you are suggesting.

However, it is vital that we all get involved in this process. Ideas are useful only if we make them come to fruition through our actions. That is why not only our treasure is significant to make the church carry out its mission. Putting our talents at the service of the community, as well as giving of our precious time, are of the utmost importance.

Just as the season of Advent encourages us to anticipate the coming of Christ in hope, let us anticipate the ways God will work in and through our parish in the months ahead. We may not know all the answers yet, but we trust that, with God's help, we can step into this new season of ministry with boldness and grace.

May this new Church Year be a time of renewed commitment, renewed vision, and renewed faith. And may we, as a community of believers, continue to fulfill our mission of reconciliation, bringing the peace and love of Christ to all whom we encounter.

Father Carlos E. Expósito I.  
Rector

# PARISH LIFE

## Treasurer's Report

There is no single word that better summarizes the finances of All Saints' Church in 2024 than "generosity." In an enews message earlier this year, Father Carlos pointed out that giving with generosity and joy "is a reflection of God's unconditional love in our human realm."

During the past 11 months, we at All Saints' have been blessed with multiple gifts that reflect this idea of giving in a way that reflects God's unconditional love. Most notable is the regular payment of our pledges throughout 2024. Through the first ten months of the year, our pledge fulfillment rate was 99.5 percent.

In addition to the continuing generosity of those who pledged for the general operations of the parish, we have seen this spirit of generosity in several special gifts received during the year. At midyear, we received an unrestricted cash gift of \$30,000, which enabled us to balance revenues and expenditures for the year and also invest for the future of the parish through our Ready Fund investment account. In November, we received more than \$50,000 in individual donations above and beyond the amounts pledged. One of these gifts allowed us to extend to six months the three-month severance package originally approved by the Vestry for the preschool director and the two teachers who devotedly kept our preschool going throughout a challenging year. Another gift covered six months of the cost of the outside security service that we have employed to protect our people and property each Sunday. Finally, we received two gifts that enabled the Vestry to provide a small but richly deserved Christmas bonus for our Rector, parish staff, and choir soloists.

Grateful as we are for these generous gifts, our parish continues to face financial challenges as we move into the Advent and Christmas seasons. We received no rental income from our Education Building in 2024 and for many months have waived the "facilities fee" that would ordinarily have been transferred from the preschool account to the parish operating account. The budgeting process for 2025 has revealed that we will be unable to provide an increase in compensation for the Rector and parish staff, even if we succeed in our ongoing quest to find an appropriate nonprofit tenant for our Seventh Avenue properties.

# PARISH LIFE

(continued)

In short, we are dependent on the continuing generosity of our parishioners to maintain a healthy financial picture. We ask those who have not yet turned in their pledge cards to do so and remind those who are able that it is permissible to add a few extra dollars to the amount pledged. And, as always, year-end giving can be a means of improving our overall financial picture.

Year-end giving can take many forms. Christmas offerings have long been a staple of stewardship at All Saints' Church. During Father Paul Satrang's years as Rector, we often heard the suggestion that the amount of our Christmas gift to the parish should more or less equal the cost of a major gift for a family member. In addition, we have benefitted from year-end gifts that not only help the parish, but also may provide a tax break for the giver. For those who have previously created a donor-directed trust, it is a simple process to request that money from the trust be distributed to All Saints' Parish.

Also worth considering for those with significant capital gains in an investment account is a tax-advantaged gift of appreciated securities. We have already received one such gift this year and are happy to report that Theresa Krist, our multi-talented business administrator, can work with your broker to transfer securities from your brokerage account to the All Saints' Ready Fund. If considering such a donation in 2024, we do ask that you initiate the gift at least two weeks in advance of the last business day of the year, as it sometimes takes several days to complete all the necessary steps required to finalize these transactions.

Looking back on the year to date, all of us on the Finance Committee and Vestry are most grateful for your generosity, and we pray that your gifts will continue to reflect God's unconditional love.

Edward V. Heck  
Parish Treasurer



# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December 2024 / January 2025

On Sundays we worship in our historic church. The Sunday service will be on Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting click [here](#).

The following worship services will be held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

- Noon Mass on Tuesdays
- First Tuesday Mass, preceded by the Rosary, will be on December 3 and January 7. at 11:15am and followed by an informal potluck in the library.

### SPECIAL CLASSES AND PROGRAMS.

- Sundays from 10:00am to 10:45am – Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for children ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall taught by Lucretia Locke. For registration, call (619) 298-7729 or email us at [info@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:info@allsaintschurch.org)
- Every Thursday at 1 pm a short devotional service in the rector' office, followed by a Bible study session based on one of the readings for the Sunday of that week. The devotional service can also be attended online, to join click [here](#). Join us this coming Thursday either in person or via Zoom.
- Christian Formation—Book Study—Sunday, December 22, and January 12. See the following pages for details.



# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December

1	<b>The The First Sunday of Advent</b> Mass	10:00am
3	Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552 Rosary (St. Mary Chapel) Mass (St. Mary Chapel) Potluck Lunch (Library)	11:15am Noon 1:00pm
5	Devotional Service and Bible Study Rector's Office or via Zoom (see previous page for link)	1:00pm
8	<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b> Arts and Crafts Sale, Parish Hall and Courtyard Mass	9:30am–2:30pm 10:00am
10	Mass (St. Mary Chapel) Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom	Noon 6:30
12	Devotional Service and Bible Study Rector's Office or via Zoom	1:00pm
15	<b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b> Mass Vestry Meeting Rector's Office	10:00am Noon
17	Dorothy L. Sayers, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1957 Mass	Noon
19	Devotional Service and Bible Study Rector's Office or via Zoom	1:00pm
22	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Mass	10:00am

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December

	Christian Formation Book Study (Library)	Noon
24	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon
	Musical Offering	8:30pm
	Christmas Eve Mass	9:00pm
25	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	
	Christmas Day Mass	10:00am
29	<b>The First Sunday after Christmas Day</b>	
	Mass	10:00am
31	Francis Joseph Gaudet, Educator and Social Reformer, 1934	
	Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January

- |    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2  | Devotional Service and Bible Study<br>Rector's Office or via Zoom   | 1:00pm                              |
| 5  | <b>The Second Sunday after Christmas Day</b><br><b>Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b><br>Mass                              | 10:00am                             |
| 7  | Rosary (St. Mary Chapel)<br>Mass (St. Mary Chapel)<br>Potluck Lunch (Library)<br>Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom                           | 11:15am<br>Noon<br>1:00pm<br>6:30pm |
| 9  | Devotional Service and Bible Study<br>Rector's Office or via Zoom   | 1:00pm                              |
| 12 | <b>The First Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br><b>the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b><br>Mass<br>Christian Formation Book Study (Library) | 10:00am<br>Noon                     |
| 14 | Richard Meux, Priest and Charles Gore, Bishop 1915 and 1932<br>Mass (St. Mary Chapel)   | Noon                                |
| 16 | Devotional Service and Bible Study<br>Rector's Office or via Zoom   | 1:00pm                              |
| 19 | <b>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>Vestry Meeting Rector's Office   | 10:00am<br>Noon                     |
| 21 | Agnes and Cecilia of Rome Martyrs 304 and c. 230  |                                     |

# PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January

23	Devotional Service and Bible Study Rector's Office or via Zoom	1:00pm
26	<b>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Mass Annual Meeting Parish Hall San Diego Coterie Concert Parish Hall	10:00am 11:30am 3:00pm
28	Thomas Aquinas, Friar and Theologian, 1274 Mass (St. Mary Chapel)	Noon
30	Devotional Service and Bible Study Rector's Office or via Zoom	1:00pm

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

In this December/January issue of our bi-monthly newsletter we continue with our ongoing series of life stories of members of our parish. In this issue Emily Ortlieb shares her life story,



Greetings, all! I'm Emily, and you probably know me as the clerk of the Vestry and the soprano soloist - I'm excited to share more of my life outside of All Saints' with you

I was born in Algonquin, IL, in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, and I am the eldest of three brothers who are very close to me in age (we were all in high school for one year, which was a fun time!), and despite the distance between us we remain close in spirit, too. Tim, our adopted brother and his wife, Alli live in Brooklyn, NY; Tom and his wife Bridget (who were just married in September in IL!) live in Joliet, IL; and Michael, his wife Michelle, and their two boys Ollie and Wes recently moved back to the Chicago suburbs from St. Louis. I hope you'll get to meet them all at some point, as they are all rockstar human beings.

Around the time I was two years old, I told my father that I would like to have a piano. "You're two," he told me, as the story goes (he and my mother worked in engineering and medicine and neither had musical training of any kind). I bugged him about it for three long years, until he finally gave in and brought home a glorious (used) upright that sits in their living room to this day. And so I began my lessons.

My teacher, Robert Hart, was a retired high school science teacher who lived down the street from us who played in jazz bands on the weekends. He was incredibly kind and

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

patient with my very shy five year old self, and my 4:30pm Thursday lessons became a ritual that would continue until I left for college. I picked up the piano quickly, and by the time I was 12 years old he put me to work at his church where he held the music director title: Zion United Church of Christ in Dundee, IL. Something about the hymns at this church (despite my upbringing in Catholic school) really clicked for me: though it probably had something to do with the fact that I found them easy to sightread, they continue to provide a source of deep meaning and comfort for me (think anything written by Fanny Crosby).

Anyways, I enjoyed playing the piano on Sundays and by the time I was 14 had learned to play the organ as well. Then one Sunday, the soprano soloist was unable to sing, and I was asked to sing last minute because I could read well. And that is the story of how my voice was discovered. I went on to study voice at a music school where I also taught piano and cleaned the studios to offset the costs of my own singing lessons. I was fortunate to spend a summer at Interlochen Center for the Arts in northern Michigan during high school, which all but solidified my intention to study music in college. Mr. Hart remained a constant during the outside tumult in my life, and his guidance also paid off in an opportunity I received during my senior year of high school to study at Midwest Young Artist Academy, a prestigious music school in Chicago, as well as the youngest apprentice in the (now sadly defunct) Elgin Opera Company.

For my undergraduate studies I attended the School of Music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which was such a wonderful time in my life. Perhaps I am romanticizing it, but being able to focus 100% of my time on music was a dream come true. While studying abroad in Austria during my final year, I caught the attention of certain faculty at the private conservatory in Vienna. They helped me put together a hasty Fulbright application (as the audition period for the following year had already passed and the school's incoming roster had been filled), and I returned home for my final semester at Illinois hopeful that I would return upon finishing my degree.

Once home, Mr. Hart, whose health had begun to decline in his 85 years, asked me to come to his house for tea one last time. I shared photos and stories from my time abroad,

# PARISH LIFE

## Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

and we compared notes, as he had been deployed to Europe as an 18 year old during WWII (he was nearly immediately pulled to play trumpet in the army band, which he credits with saving his life). Mr. Hart died the following week, and his loss continues to be a profound one for me. And he still shows up for me in ways I'm never expecting—in music everywhere and all the time, in the subsequent Fulbright placement I was awarded in HARTberg, Austria, the overall significance of hearts—I call myself a work of (H)art.

The next chapter is the Austria chapter, and while I could try to put into words the opportunity to study Western art music in the place of its birth, the real significance for me was how I happened to become involved in supporting refugees just before the Syrian refugee crisis, many of whom had walked to central Europe from as far as Afghanistan. And nothing else mattered anymore. To me, music is impossible unless there is first life sustained to foster it. And thus my life began moving in any entirely new direction after nearly three years in Austria (and turning down a five-year contract which would have likely solidified my residence in Europe). At the time I had no idea whether I made the right decision, but now I am grateful to say that I certainly did. I met my husband CJ on an el train shortly after returning to Chicago, who's been along for the ride since day one.

Law school was really hard for me. I went in thinking I had prepared myself adequately (after all, I had just come from a year of working 70 hour weeks in refugee children's residential care in Chicago while taking the LSAT and applying to law school - how much harder could it be?) I did ultimately find my way, and the highlight of that time for me other than the lifelong friends I made, was the empowerment to use my voice in a (far less musical) productive way, as an advocate. CJ and I also got married and he moved to Minneapolis (where I was going to school) during my second year, which helped.

While in law school, I focused my clinical and research studies on U.S. asylum and anti-trafficking law, where I ultimately met my colleagues at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), where I work now. I was fortunate to be offered a fellowship in Washington DC, lasting a year long, and then was offered a job in our San Diego office. While much



# PARISH LIFE

---

## Life Story of Members of All Saints'

of my job is diplomatic, I also handle a caseload of persons who have been subject to unintended or erroneous applications of the law to their cases (think people who have been deported by accident despite having solid claims for protection, family separation, missing kids, and persons who have sustained life-altering injuries after having fallen over the border wall). And in my spare time, I am often down at the border wall providing the little respite and encouragement I can to people who are arriving—my agency estimates (conservatively) that roughly two thirds of people arriving at the border have a legitimate protection need. In a time when immigration is so highly politicized (and a seriously complex issue), I challenge you all to think about welcoming the stranger as Christ asks us to do. He was, after all, a refugee child Himself.

# PARISH LIFE

## *Christmas at All Saints'*

### *Decorating the Courtyard and Church*

The Flower Guild welcomes your help decorating the courtyard and part of the church with greens on Saturday December 21st. The following Tuesday, December 24th help assemble the altar flowers, decorate the wall sconces in the church and place the poinsettias around the church. **If anyone has a pine tree in need of pruning Sue would be happy to oblige!**

Let Sue Johnston Eaton know you will be there to help on Saturday the 21st and/or the 24rd at 9:00am. All are welcome! Email Sue at [labretired1@gmail.com](mailto:labretired1@gmail.com) or 619-840-0620.



### *Christmas Poinsettias*

We are offering an opportunity for parishioners to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one. These flowers will be used to decorate the courtyard for Christmas. Orders must be completed by Sunday, December 15th to ensure that all names will be in the Christmas bulletins. We ask for a \$25 donation. Forms are available from the Greeters or on the back and front tables or from Louise Lawson or Theresa Krist.

# PARISH LIFE

## *Christmas at All Saints'*

### *December 22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule*

- **Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
Mass Mary Chapel Noon Mass  
Musical Offering – Christmas Music: Organ, Choir, and Carols\* at 8:30pm  
Solemn Mass at 9:00pm
- **Sunday, December 25– Christmas Day**  
Mass at 10:00am

\*Please suggest other Christmas carols you wish to sing than the carols we will sing during the Mass which are Adeste Fideles, Silent Night, Once in David's Royal City and Hark the Herald Angels.



# PARISH LIFE

## Vestry Nominations

### San Diego Music Coterie Orchestra Concert

#### INVITATION TO THE VESTRY

One of the primary orders of business at our Annual Parish Meeting which will be held this year on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 is electing new Vestry members.

We've been blessed at All Saints' each year to have very able and faithful candidates. If you are interested, or have any questions about serving, please speak to Cree Craig or Michael Lockridge. Vestry nomination forms will be on the back and front tables later this month.

Qualifications are that you pledge toward the financial support of All Saints' and have been attending the Masses for the last 6 months.



**Sunday, January 26 at 3:00pm**

**London – the Classical Attractions**

Music by Handel, JC Bach, Mozart, and Mendelssohn

Emily Ortlieb, soprano

Greater San Diego Chamber Orchestra



# PARISH LIFE

---

## Christmas Fair

# ARTS and CRAFTS Sale

Sunday

December  
8th

9:30 to 2:30



**All Saints' Church  
625 Pennsylvania Avenue  
92103**

**(Delivery of Art In Alley behind church)**

**Free Parking @ 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Questions call Todd 949-813-1171**

## COMMEMORATIONS

Dorothy L. Sayers, apologist and spiritual writer,  
1957



Dorothy Leigh Sayers was born at Oxford on 13th June 1893, the only child of the Rev. Henry Sayers, of Anglo-Irish descent. Her father was at the time headmaster of Christ Church Cathedral School, and she was born in the headmaster's house. She was brought up at Bluntisham Rectory, Cambridgeshire, and went to the Godolphin School, Salisbury, where she won a scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford. In 1915 she graduated with first class honours in modern

languages. Disliking the routine and seclusion of academic life she joined Blackwell's, the Oxford publishers, worked with her Oxford friend Eric Whelpton at L'École des Roches in Normandy, and from 1922 until 1929 served as copywriter at the London advertising firm of Bensons.

In 1923 she published her first novel, *Whose Body*, which introduced Lord Peter Wimsey, her hero for fourteen volumes of novels and short stories. She also wrote four other novels in collaboration and two serial stories for broadcasting. Writing full time she rose to be the doyen of crime writers and in due course president of the Detection Club. Her work, carefully researched and widely varied, included poetry, the editing of collections with her erudite introductions on the genre, and the translating of the *Tristan* of Thomas from mediaeval French. She admired E C Bentley and G K Chesterton and numbered among her friends T S Eliot, Charles Williams and C S Lewis.

# COMMEMORATIONS

Dorothy L. Sayers, apologist and spiritual writer,  
1957



Sayers' house in Newland St, Witham, 1980

She married Arthur Fleming in 1926. In 1928 her father died at Christchurch in the Fens, his last parish, and she bought a cottage at Witham, Essex, to accommodate her mother. On the latter's death a year later she moved in herself and bought the house next door, No 22 Newland Street, to throw the two houses into one. There she worked until her death in 1957.

*Gaudy Night* was to be the culmination of the Wimsey saga, but her friend Muriel St Clare Byrne persuaded her to collaborate in putting Lord Peter on the stage in *Busman's Honeymoon*. The play was successfully launched in December 1936, and she gave up crime writing except for the book of the play and three short stories. With her new financial security she turned thankfully to the work for which she had been trained.

The stage fascinated her. She had already been asked to write a play, *The Zeal of Thy House*, for the Canterbury Festival. She followed this with six more, up to the Colchester Festival



# COMMEMORATIONS

## Dorothy L. Sayers, apologist and spiritual writer, 1957

play, *The Emperor Constantine* in 1951. The most momentous was *The Man Born to be King*, written for broadcasting in children's hour at the request of the [BBC](#). Her presentation of Christ's voice speaking modern English raised a storm of protest and revolutionised religious play-writing. Opposition stimulated her. She would never compromise where her art was concerned.

Her theology was traditionally Anglican with emphasis on doctrine. Every available moment of her time was spent writing, to the small hours of the morning. Letters, articles and essays streamed from her pen. The war led her to write *Begin Here*, followed by *The Mind of the Maker*, in which she compares the human with the Divine creator. She explored by-ways of knowledge, delighted in puzzles and enjoyed many a fight which she conducted with wit and good humour. Her formidable presence, magnificent brain and logical presentation put her in great demand as a lecturer. She worked with the Rev. Patrick McLaughlin at the St Anne's centre for Christian discourse and became in 1952 churchwarden of her London parish, St Thomas-cum-St Annes.

She found her culminating role after the war. Dante's writings had long intrigued her. Now she taught herself old Italian and made a translation in terza rima of *The Divine Comedy* unmatched for its popularity and the clarity of its notes. She also found time to finish her translation of the *Song of Roland* from the old French. But she unexpectedly died from heart failure on 17 December 1957 while engaged on Dante's third volume, *Paradiso*, and her friend Dr Barbara Reynolds completed her work.

To the end she drove herself hard, living the philosophy she expressed in these words:

*"The only Christian work is good work, well done"*

Source: The Dorothy L. Sayers Society web site



# COMMEMORATIONS

Dorothy L. Sayers, apologist and spiritual writer,  
1957

## **The Christian: Source: C. S. Lewis Institute**

Sayers seems to have fallen in love with the idea of writing drama before she became excited about writing specifically Christian drama. Busman's Honeymoon was due to turn into a stage production when the dean of Canterbury Cathedral asked her to write a play to be performed in the church. Her predecessors for an invitation of this caliber were no less than T.S. Eliot and Charles Williams. She cautiously accepted the offer, and the result was a performance titled *The Zeal of Thy House*, in which Sayers uses a twelfth-century workaholic to explore the twin themes of quality craftsmanship and excessive pride. The play was popular, and Sayers found herself asked over and over about her Christianity. Her answers were pugnacious rather than personal, and she eventually put her thoughts into a *Sunday Times* article titled "The Greatest Drama Ever Staged Is the Official Creed of Christendom." Dorothy L. Sayers, best-selling detective novelist and literary celebrity, had stated her faith in no uncertain terms. That the article caused a stir was, in Sayers's opinion, not a compliment to the state of Christianity. What a tragedy that the Christian world was enraptured by "the spectacle of a middle-aged female detective-novelist admitting publicly that the judicial murder of God might compete in interest with the corpse in the coal hole."

<sup>8</sup>Nevertheless, Sayers had hit upon a thesis that was to drive both her fiction and nonfiction Christian works. Christianity was interesting and not only interesting; it was the best story ever told. This was not a new idea to Christendom, as anyone familiar with G.K. Chesterton knows, but Sayers gave it a twist. If the story of Christianity really was the most remarkable of tales, and if Jesus was a dangerous firebrand, then it was the responsibility of Christians to keep the romance alive. Yet the opposite had happened. Overuse of ecclesiastical language, stale curates, and excessive talk of Christ being meek and mild had made the Lion of Judah boring. She was blunt on this point. "Nobody cares...nowadays that Christ was 'scourged, railed upon, buffeted, mocked and crucified' because all those words have grown hypnotic with ecclesiastical use." But if one wrote that Christ was "spiked upon the gallows like an owl on a barn-door," this would not only get people's attention, it would recall what actually happened to Him.

# COMMEMORATIONS

## Dorothy L. Sayers, apologist and spiritual writer, 1957

Sayers had a chance to work out her thesis further with a BBC radio serial on the life of Christ. Her efforts to make Christ's story more accessible, however, did not go unopposed. *The Man Born to Be King* involved a furious exchange of letters between Sayers and the BBC. Sayers had maintained that the apostles and Christ were to speak like regular persons and not "talk Bible ... even at the risk of a little loss of formal dignity," whereas the BBC was anxious to avoid unnecessary controversy. Sayers won most of the skirmishes, and the result was a lively radio drama in which Jesus speaks like a normal person, the apostle Matthew has a cockney accent, and the apostle Philip has no business sense. A snippet from the beginning of the fourth broadcast is a good indicator of Sayers's style. Philip has just been cheated out of some money, and the apostles are unhappy with him.

*Andrew: Six drachmas! Well, really, Philip!*

*Philip: I'm very sorry, everybody.*

*Simon: I daresay you are. But here's me and Andrew and the Zebedees working all night with the nets to get a living for the lot of us – and then you go and let yourself be swindled by the first cheating salesman you meet in the bazaar –*

*Philip: I told you I'm sorry. Master, I'm very sorry. But it sounded all right when he worked it out.*

*Matthew: Fact is, Philip my boy, you've been had for a sucker.*

Partly because of the legacy of writers like Sayers, this passage may not seem controversial today. But at the time, it was explosive. Groups such as the Lord's Day Observance Society and the Protestant Truth Society tried to get the radio drama banned. The protest went all the way to Parliament. But Sayers had an ally in the BBC's director of Religious Broadcasting, who reminded her that all the protests were free publicity. Indeed they were: *The Man Born to Be King* was a remarkable success and a great encouragement to war-torn Britain.

Sayers wrote Christian works outside of drama. Her *Mind of the Maker*, for example, is an innovative, orthodox comparison of the Trinity to human works of creation. Though she never claimed to be a theologian, *The Mind of the Maker* provides such ready accessibility to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost that one of her biographers claimed that "she has managed, without any intellectual cheating, to bring God and man closer together."

# COMMEMORATIONS

## John Chrysostom, Bishop and theologian, 407



John was called "Chrysostom" ("Golden Mouth") because of his eloquence. He was a priest of Antioch, and an outstanding preacher. (Audiences were warned not to carry large sums of money when they went to hear him speak, since pickpockets found it very easy to rob his hearers ~ they were too intent on his words to notice what

was happening.) His sermons are mostly straightforward expositions of Holy Scripture (he has extensive commentaries on both Testaments, with special attention to the Epistles of Paul), and he emphasizes the literal meaning, whereas the style popular at Alexandria tended to read allegorical meanings into the text.

He loved the city and people of Antioch, and they loved him. However, he became so famous that the Empress at Constantinople decided that she must have him for her court preacher, and she had him kidnapped and brought to Constantinople and there made bishop. This was a failure all around. His sermons against corruption in high places earned him powerful enemies (including the Empress), and he was sent into exile, where he died.

Along with Athanasius of Alexandria, Basil the Great, and Gregory of Nazianzus, he is counted as one of the Four Great Eastern (or Greek) Doctors of the Ancient Church. The Four Great Western (or Latin) Doctors are Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine, and Gregory the Great.

Source James E. Kiefer BIO



## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

625 Pennsylvania Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92103-4321

Phone: (619) 298-7729 Fax: (619) 298-7801

Email: [info@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:info@allsaintschurch.org)

Website: [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rector: The Rev. Carlos E. Expósito  
[rector@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:rector@allsaintschurch.org)

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Administrator:** Mrs. Louise D. Lawson  
[administrator@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:administrator@allsaintschurch.org)

**Business Administrator:** Mrs. Theresa Krist  
[finance@allsaintschurch.org](mailto:finance@allsaintschurch.org)

**Organist & Choirmaster:** Robert MacLeod

### ALL SAINTS' PRESCHOOL

3674 Seventh Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92103-4321  
**Director:** Mrs. Renika Battles



Like us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/allsaintssandiego](http://www.facebook.com/allsaintssandiego)