

October 2, 2011

Overcast skies once again. The last of the apples are quickly falling from the trees outside my window. Though there may be a few more warm, sunny days ahead in our extended Sophia Christi "region", I slip into this beautiful season of Fall with just a touch of loss and a great deal of joy. The frenzied pace and overwhelming productivity of summer yields to the reflective, even introspective time of autumn and winter. There is a rich harvest of fresh experience to be appreciated, absorbed and integrated into our lives, and the Scriptural themes of "feast" and "banquet" next weekend invite us to look at "activity" and "receptivity" in a different way. Perhaps you would like to ponder these readings in preparation for our Liturgy. If so, read Isaiah 25:6-19; Phillipians 4:12-14,19-20 and Matthew 22:1-14.

Mass Schedule This Month

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR PORTLAND

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **October 8**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Our new church home is warm and welcoming and there is a parking lot behind the church. The ramp down to the kitchen (as well as the ramp up to the Sanctuary) is located at the east end of the parking lot. Parking is also available on N. Atlantic (west side of the church) and you may enter through the front doors or the back door facing the parking lot on the west end of the building. Your harvest of vegetables, salads and desserts will be most welcome at our dinner following Mass.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **October 9**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd**, at **4:00pm**. Bring your harvest to the table: entrees, vegetable dishes, salads and desserts for the potluck following our Liturgy. If you would like to be involved as a lector, Eucharistic minister or musician at this Mass, please contact Kathy or Carol. And if you would like to participate as a singer or musician, please come at 3:00 and join in on the rehearsal.

On Saturday, **October 22**, at 10:00am I will be celebrating Mass in **Bend**. If you live in the area and are interested in participating in that celebration, please send an email and I will be happy to put you in touch with the organizers in Bend.

Musicians and Singers

Current singers and musicians in both the Eugene and Portland communities would like to invite those who play musical instruments and who enjoy singing to **join the choir!** We practice during the hour before Mass, beginning at 3:00 in Eugene and 4:00 in Portland. If the Liturgy or the music is more complex, as it might be during Easter, for example, we sometimes meet a little earlier, or (rarely) at another time during the week.

If you like to sing and/or play an instrument, please talk to someone in the choir after Liturgy next weekend. We would love to have you!

Pastoral Update

Our not-for-profit paperwork is nearly complete and will soon be ready for submission to the IRS. In order to meet the financial and insurance requirements of the churches from whom we rent space, it has been necessary to create a legal structure that conforms to state and federal guidelines. In addition, many of you have been waiting for Sophia Christi to become a non-profit so that your contributions can be tax-deductible. Though most of us don't think of churches as corporations, it is the "corporate" legal structure that underlies all organizations in the U.S., and that includes all churches, parishes, the Archdiocese itself and Sophia Christi.

Our "board of directors," with your continuing involvement and input, will gradually become our "parish council" with nominations and elections occurring within the full community. Until then, we can be grateful to the five intrepid members of Sophia Christi who have put considerable time and energy into creating the framework for meeting our "corporate" responsibilities to the churches with whom we partner in our use of their facilities. This non-profit structure provides the bare minimum necessary for our stability and continuing service, as a community, on into the future.

On a separate pastoral front--if you have pastoral needs that aren't being met, or know of other concerns requiring attention, please let me know. You have my email address in this mailing, and my phone number is 503-286-3584. Don't hesitate to use either one. I welcome you to contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, sacraments of reconciliation or anointing, home Masses or other pastoral care needs.

Pre-Advent Retreat

Our **Fall retreat** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 5**, from **10am to 6pm** at a location just south of Portland. There is no limit on the size of the group and you are welcome to invite others who might enjoy a day of pre-Advent reflection and spiritual nurturing as well as enjoy connecting with Sophia Christi. The retreat will conclude with Mass. Cost is **\$15.00 per person** and will be collected when you arrive that day. Please look for the **sign-up sheet after Mass** this weekend or email an **RSVP by Friday, October 21**, so we can plan food and materials accordingly. Further information and directions will be sent to everyone who registers. If you have specific needs or requests, please let me know. There are a limited number of rooms available at the retreat center for overnight guests if that would make participation possible for you.

Food for the St. Andrew Episcopal Food Pantry

Kathleen Greene, Director of the Food Pantry sent the following message after receiving our contributions in September. **Please look for the basket at the entrance**

of the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please continue to be as generous as possible.

Dear Ones, I don't know how your donations get better and better, but they do. Our pantry received almost 140 pounds from you in September. Your choices are just so thoughtful. You sent cake mixes with matching icing, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, instant potatoes, rice, flour, salt, pepper, toothpaste, cereal, soups, sauces, pasta, rice, fruit, and tuna plus much more. Our pantry, and others, lost \$1,700.00 in government funding this year. We really were happy to see your very large donation. I have faith in Him, all will be well. We will not be forgotten. Love each other, and stay close. You all are my heroes.

I ask for your prayers to stop the circle of domestic violence.

I ask for your prayers for the young mothers riddled with cancer without medical insurance.

I ask for your prayers for the lives and homes lost in floods, fires and tornados.

I ask for your prayers to heal the hearts our lawmakers.

I ask for your prayers to keep the innocent children and animals safe.

And pray for Kathleen to have the strength to serve.

In His name, Kathleen

Finding a balance between activity and receptivity, between busy-ness and rest, is a great challenge given our cultural values around productivity and our Western belief that idle-ness gives destructive impulses free reign. Ours is not a culture that trusts the contemplative impulse. We are conditioned to believe only that which we can see, and to discount the validity of whatever is hidden from view. So we produce our products at a feverish pace and are encouraged to consume them just as rapidly in order to keep the frenetic energy moving as swiftly and “productively” as possible. When do we rest? When do we pray? When do we stop long enough to listen for the still, small voice of Spirit whispering words of wisdom as we make our way along the path that is our life? Are we afraid that if we slow down we will die? Afraid opportunities, other people, life itself will pass us by? The guests invited to the banquet in Matthew’s gospel next weekend have so many important things to do they forego the feast of a lifetime! What might it be like for us to receive God’s invitation to retreat from the busy-ness of our summer lives into the appreciative harvest of Fall and feast on the fruits of our labor in preparation for the deeper contemplative season that approaches in winter?

May Sophia lead us with wisdom as we weigh the alternatives before us. Blessings to all of you,

Toni