

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Día de Los Muertos

A part of a new
Episcopal Triduum?

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to
the calendar: email
stthomassoftware
@googlegroups.com

Another Triduum? Día de los Muertos. All Saints. All Souls

A triduum is a three day period of liturgical observance. The triduum we are most familiar is the Paschal Triduum which begins on Maundy Thursday and culminates in the Great Vigil of Easter.

Interestingly, over the past few years another “triduum” has been evolving within the liturgical practice of the Episcopal Church. This triduum begins with a deepening appreciation of the many cultural celebrations that connect us, as human beings, with the remembrance of our ancestors, with our deceased loved ones, and with a sense of lineage and community. And perhaps because so many of us in the “modern” world may feel that we have lost our roots and no longer maintain a sense of connection across generations, there may be a special poignancy in re-entering this space via cultural and spiritual traditions different from our own.

Día de los Muertos, literally, the Day of the Dead, continues to evolve. It is not only a window into Mexican culture, but has become part of the broader religious and spiritual landscape of the United States. Within the Episcopal Church, Día de los Muertos has become something of a cultural bridge. More and more, it is becoming “normal” for Episcopal churches to make space for traditional Mexican altars concurrent with the celebration of All Saints’ Sunday, another way through which we strive to grow in our capacity to live authentically as a welcoming and diverse church. Within the Anglican liturgical calendar, Día de los Muertos resonates in many ways with All Souls’ Day, which technically would be observed on November 2nd. Fascinating, to me, how these traditions come together in ways both old and new!

Last week, as our Spanish-language community assembled a Día de los Muertos altar at St. Catherine’s. Once again I experienced that deep sense of community, the telling of stories across generations, letting the altar come together as a statement of life, and yes, faith – faith that we are remembered by those who come after us, faith that we are connected, faith that we are alive! During the homily, I invited the community to go deeper. What is the source of that deep connection we experience as we create our altar? As we may visit cemeteries and clean the graves? (Or mourn the fact that we are too far away from our communities of origin to be able to do this?)

Continued on the back...



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 3

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (P) Anglican Way
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (GH) Breakfast Club
- 9:45am (U) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Holy Baptism
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, November 4

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, November 5

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
- 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
- 5:30pm (P) Finance committee meeting
- 6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
- 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, November 6

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
- 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 5:00pm (C, N) ECM
- 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
- 8:30pm (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, November 7

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 10:00am (U) Newark Music Makers
- 12:00pm (C) Property committee
- 7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, November 8

- 6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
- 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, November 9

- 6:30am (K) Kitchen clean up
- 1-3pm (GH) Private Party
- 6:00pm Milburn Orchards
Hayride and Bonfire!

Sunday, November 10

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (BO) Novel Theology
meet the author Michele Chynoweth
- 9:15am (P) Anglican Way
- 9:15am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (GH) Breakfast Club
- 9:45am (U) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
- 2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
- 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

- (C) Classroom
- (GH) Great Hall
- (N) Nave
- (P) Parlor
- (MR) Music Room
- (U) Undercroft
- (DO) Deacon's Office
- (RO) Rector's Office

And that is where “holy Triduum” comes in. The “source” is Christ, Eucharist, Resurrection! The colors and flowers, the photos, the food... the moment we take those altars and place them in a church, we are immediately invited to remember the Eternal Life we have in Christ. Día de los Muertos, in its fullness, is another Easter Procession. We begin with the color of the cempazuchitl, the Mexican marigold, and end with Easter white that is all colors and perfect light. We begin with a deep love of connections, community, roots, and are invited to remember that the fullness of the Christian faith that indeed transcends culture is that eternal life we have in Christ!

This Sunday, I invite you to experience all of this: All Saints', All Souls', Día de los Muertos... these are not exactly “three days”, although in Mexico there is certainly a sense of observing this time over a several day period. But still, the movement is an invitation into Easter, the holding of ALL of our lives, past, present and future, within the eternal Now that we point to both in Eucharist – abundant, eternal life in Christ.

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