

The Communicator June 11, 2024



Our past Sunday morning service was particularly festive as there were flowers everywhere due to a San Pablo Saturday wedding. SMAAA has never looked any finer.... except when decorated for Christmas with the marvelous Poinsettia tree by **Suzie Kirago and Joaquin Keck**.

The Reverend Gillian Ball was filling in for Doug and so we also had a larger number of Brits than usual. Gillian's thought-provoking sermon is printed at the end of this

The Communicator June 11, 2024

week's Communicator. We had a nearly full church and it all felt very, very good.

We were treated to two hauntingly beautiful violin solos by **Laurie Rodriguez**, our organist. She had taped a piano accompaniment and with son **Dan** as her "Techie" Laurie accompanied herself. We were also grateful to a few new choir members enlisted this past Sunday. Thank you **Andrew Wygard**, visiting from Tepoztlan, **Lupita Vines** and **Sylvia Wirth** who will hopefully continue singing with the choir.



The Hospitality Hour was amazing. It seems everyone stayed to enjoy **Debbie's** generous spread. Debbie, those were the best ever chocolate chip cookies!!! I arrived late to the Hospitality Hour and was moved to say to the person walking with me, "**Look at this. Remember it.**

This is what a healthy church looks like." It was truly lovely. Visitors were being warmly included, there was lots of laughter. The volunteers who were helping Father Victor with the homeless meal were busy getting ready to serve and **Helen Millan** reported that, thanks to a little bakery glitch, there would be 100 of her chocolate chip cookies from the bakery to accompany the meal. Thank you Helen!



The Communicator June 11, 2024



Father Doug surprised us all by being back early from his trip to Italy. Sadly, their trip was cut short because **Veronica's** daughter is once again in critical condition, intubated and in an induced coma. Please remember **Veronica and Maria Fernanda** in prayer.

Renee Parmigiani reports that our **Sheila Keeler** is not doing well. The Pastoral Care committee is trying to visit a couple of times each week but Sheila welcomes visitors and, of course, visit help give Porfirio a little break.

We need more visiting angels. The same people are doing all the heavy lifting. **Pat Manners** with her Pastoral Care Ministry, **Debbie Jeffress** with her "Feed them and they will come" Ministry. If you'd like to help, please contact one of

them and volunteer.

Amanda Hooten is in her second week of full time Spanish immersion. Good job Amanda. If you are interested in immersion language school, please WHATSAPP **Charlie Goff at 777-328-2789**. **Cemanahuac** is offering a special rate (and flexible hours) for locals. **Wednesdays, 5-6:15, is Mexican Current Events at Cemanahuac**. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn what is happening in Mexico and to learn it with someone who has an encyclopedia knowledge of Mexican history and culture. Cemanahuac is located in Colonia Las Palmas, 1.5 blocks off Morelos Sur at the Glorietta Las Palmas, 4 San Juan.



Catherine del Rey Kolodin resumed her ESL classes for children and their parents on Friday afternoons at 4. If you know children learning English who might want to participate, please tell them to be there at 4. Catherine is working on scheduling an adults only English class as well. Great work Catherine. We sure love having you in our community.

Behind the photo of Catherine and Kids is the bulletin board with the photos of SMAAA members. We stopped taking them when **Peter Hollingsworth** left town and Judy Frothingham is going to again start taking them. Please see Judy if your photo isn't on the board!

\$ 550/día
\$1600/semana

100% Inglés

KIDS Campstastic! CAMP

Cupo Limitado

Edades 4-10

DEL 29 DE JULIO AL 8 DE AGOSTO

Iglesia St. Michael's Col. Daicías

9:00 am - 1:30 pm

ACTIVIDADES DIVERTIDAS Y CREATIVAS

Manualidades, cuenta cuartos juegos, experimentos científicos y mucho más!

Miss Kate, Miss Suzanne, Miss Dani and Miss Anel

Informes e inscripciones
777 7878962

Summer Camp is just around the corner. Do you know children who would enjoy two weeks of Summer Camp - offered in English? **Suzie Jeffress from MaryMount** has put together a great team of teacher/counselors as well as a terrific program.

A very strange bit of worrisome (and totally untrue) gossip was

The Communicator June 11, 2024

spread about the music program at Saint Michael's. Members of the choir apparently wrongly believed (we have no idea what started it) that the choir was being disbanded in order to have a SMAAA children's choir. It is hard to understand how anyone could have believed this given the fact there are no available children but in any case, if you are a choir member who came to believe this, please know it isn't true and never was true. Since 1998 the choir has always been an integral part of the worship program at SMAAA and that



continues.

A poster for an organ concert. On the left, a man in a tuxedo (Victor Manuel Morales) stands in front of an organ. The background is a dark image of the organ. At the top left is a circular logo with a cross and a star. At the top right is a shield logo with a cross and a star, with the text 'Saint Michael & All Angels Anglican Church | Community | Worship'. The main title is 'JOYFUL SOUNDS OF SUMMER' in large white letters, with 'WITH VICTOR MANUEL MORALES' below it. Below the title is a list of organ music pieces and composers. At the bottom, it says 'SATURDAY JUN 22 6:30 PM' and '\$250 PESOS'. There is also a QR code and a note about a pre-concert talk and wine bar.

JOYFUL SOUNDS OF SUMMER
WITH VICTOR MANUEL MORALES

ORGAN MUSIC FROM THE XIX TO XXI CENTURIES

Paulino Paredes Pérez (Mexico, 1915-1957)	3 Mystical Chants (1941)
Juan Pablo Medina (México, b. 1968)	Danza del Pueblo (Columbia for organ, 2023)
Pēteris Vasks (Latvia, b. 1946)	Viators (2002)
Guy Ropartz (France, 1864-1955)	Sortie (from 6 Pièces for Organ)
Imants Zenzaris (Latvia, b. 1951)	Pastorals of a Summer Flute

\$250 PESOS
Tickets on sale the day of the event: 5500 pesos

Scan the QR to buy right NOW!

PRE CONCERT TALK AND WINE BAR AT 6:00 PM!

SATURDAY
JUN 22 6:30 PM

Minerva 7 esq. Fray, Delicias, Cuernavaca, Mor.

SMAAA is honored to offer an organ concert by **Professor Victor Manuel Morales**. “Joyful Sounds of Summer” will be performed **Saturday, June 22, 6:30PM**. For ticket purchase please scan the QR code on the poster. **Please note there will be a pre-concert talk and wine bar at 6PM.**

The Communicator June 11, 2024



Dr. Robert Dailey is our featured speaker for the June **“Know Your Neighbor”** lecture on Wednesday, June 19, 4PM. Dr. Dailey will be speaking on the latest innovations in hearing aids as well as current research on hearing issues. Titled, **“Hearing Loss: No Fun. What’s to be done?”** this lecture has been long awaited by many of you suffering from some loss of hearing. Dr. Bob is a fellow sufferer. Moderated by **John Mitchell**, the lecture will be followed by refreshments and time to mingle and chat.

Our August lecture will feature **Walter Lopez** speaking about Mexico’s greatest and most beloved actress, **Maria Felix**. Date TBD

Hopefully you already have your tickets for the **DEO GRACIAS Concert** either for Friday or Saturday nights. This will be the Mexican premier of **“Sunrise Mass”** by Norwegian composer **Ola Gjello** and promises to be one of the most exciting concerts ever offered by **Maestra Andrea Carr**, retired music director of SMAAA.

A vertical poster for a concert. The background is a warm, golden sunset over water. At the top, the text reads "Deo Gracias" in a cursive font, followed by "Agrupación coral" in a smaller, simpler font. Below that, it says "EN CONCIERTO" and "PRESENTA LA PREMIERE MEXICANA". The main title "Sunrise Mass" is in a large, bold, serif font, with "Ola Gjello" underneath it. Further down, it lists the venue: "Parroquia San José El Calvario" and "Avenida Morelos No. 2 Cuernavaca Centro, Morelos". Ticket information is provided: "Cuota de recuperación: General: \$400" and "Preventa limitada: \$350". The dates and times are: "Viernes | 14 de junio | 19:30 horas" and "Sábado | 15 de junio | 16:00 horas". At the bottom, it mentions "Cupo limitado" and lists the conductor "Maestra Andrea Carr" and the participating groups: "Cuerpo Concert Choir", "Ensemble Vocal Crescendo", and "Orquesta de Cuerdas Sunrise". A QR code is in the bottom left corner, and contact information is at the bottom: "Informes y venta: 777 420 46 77" and "777 196 01 05" with a Facebook link "www.facebook.com/dengraciascuernavaca". The logo for "FUNDACIÓN MAESTRA CARR" is in the bottom right corner.

The Communicator June 11, 2024

4th of July (2-5PM) is around the corner and is always a fun event at Saint Michael's. This year we will offer both regular and vegetarian hamburgers. Potato salads, green salads, fruit salads and brownies will be provided by parish members. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are already available.... Sunday mornings and at the Library Tea on Tuesday. **Presale 250 pesos, At the door 300 pesos.** Come celebrate the 4th and Canada Day with us.



Library Story Hour was this past Saturday and the lovely book, **Amigo** (for which my Amigo was named), was the featured story read by **Jackie Robinson**. It appears one of the youngsters was really into the story.

There will be no Communicator for the next two Tuesdays.

The following is the homily given by the Rev. Gillian Ball last Sunday which she graciously allowed to be shared.

Reflection: When I was ten years old, I left Mexico and went to England. A cousin was in a theatre production of "Everyman". I was added to the cast as the child of a poor family. A major character in the story is Death. The actor must have worn a menacing mask and a fearsome costume in that play. I was warned not to be frightened of him. It was all make-believe. I do vaguely recall someone dressed in red so

The Communicator June 11, 2024

it seems that he may have been characterised as a devil representing Death. Being prepared for this alarming apparition - Devil and Death combined - I was assuaged of any fears.

I normally don't pay much attention to the devil because I don't believe in it as a being. Of course evil exists, but not as an individual. In the Genesis story the devil is symbolised by a serpent. The devil is the symbol of malevolence - the personification of temptation and seduction. His main purpose is to get people to sell their souls through greed and promises of dominance. Films, plays and books tend to portray Satan as thoroughly devious. He is likely to be attractive, charming, charismatic. He appears to be trustworthy but, suddenly, victims find themselves entangled in impossible situations. There are numerous books featuring the devil. His primary talent is apparent in C.S Lewis's book "The Screwtape Letters" - a satire about a devil who sends instructive letters to his young charge on how to tempt a human being and lead him on the path to damnation

Jesus, in today's Gospel of Mark, did not seem to be as persuasive as any devil. A theologian said, "*The story is offensive.*" We really would prefer to ignore it. It is unpleasant because Christ's words are twisted by opponents and the devil appears to predominate. Jesus was in Capernaum where the crowds were getting larger. He had been doing several healings and exorcisms. He was questioning religious laws, disturbing the social order, offering a better way. He was offering a glimpse of a kingdom of love and community. The authorities were beginning to notice what was happening. Challengers began to infiltrate the crowds and make notes about this rabbi who was far too popular.

It appears that some of Jesus' family had moved to Capernaum. They knew that some of those present were ready to trap him. They tried to restrain him, asked him to lie low, to take care with his preaching. They were getting deeply concerned about the situation. The crowd was getting stirred up. There were loud accusations about Jesus using Beelzebul (the devil) to cast out demons. This insult enraged Jesus. "*If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come*" He tried to reason with them "*How can Satan cast out Satan?*" to no avail. He began to get vehement. His voice reached a crescendo as he shouted, "*Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin*". He was proclaiming that it is unforgiveable to look at good and call it evil. It is deplorable to lose the capacity to recognize the good when it is encountered for it brings one into moral danger.

It appears that Jesus was not winning much popularity. He was upsetting those closest to him including his disciples. His raging led people to presume he had become possessed! His lack of caution in the face of danger was leading some to wonder if he was going mad. Despite his warning of moral danger, the antagonists continued to oppose him by denying the goodness and healing he offered. They twisted his healing to make it appear a sinful act. Their disparagement was beyond forgiveness.

There is similar behaviour today when goodness is distorted. People are influenced to ignore evil actions that do so much harm to society. Tyrants and dictators take advantage and get away with horrendous deeds in the face of apathy or blindness or fear. People with few scruples or ethics in leadership roles misrepresent everything to suit their agendas and we despair. This exists in religious cults, political arenas, business practices, and certain organizations.

We despair because we feel that evil is winning at present. People who try to save the environment are murdered or dishonoured. Those who attempt to make society equitable are denigrated. The poor are vilified and blamed for their situation. Outsiders are ignored or disparaged. The desperate are dismissed. Goodness is despised in too many circles. There are far too many willing to 'sell their souls to the devil'

The Communicator June 11, 2024

for the attainment of riches and power and position. All this is tragically affecting our planet and the wellbeing of creation and society.

Christ's words, "*Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin*" could be equated to immoral leaders and those who wish to do harm to others. Here is a choosing of the devil over integrity. But we can well ask if we are also guilty. Our inability to tell the difference between the power of the Holy Spirit and that of demonic power is such an easy failing for most of humanity.

Someone wrote how extraordinary it was that Jesus in his ministry was open to everyone: Jews, Gentiles, women, the poor, the sick, tax collectors, outcasts. Those who seemed to provoke him were his family, law abiding religious leaders, and people dedicating their lives to piety. They seemed to be the least capable of making the leap from devotion to their religion to an openhearted love of God's disfigured humanity.

We may be equally culpable. We are tempted to slot ourselves into a comfortable category as faithful followers of Christ. We believe that Jesus cherishes the same things as we do and that he supports the same causes we support. But we are asked to delve more deeply and ascertain what we should truly value. Let's face it - we have not always been as open to others as Jesus was. We put up walls between those whom we deem to be good people versus bad people. We fail to stand up for those whom society demonises. We may overlook those who are bullied and sometimes driven to suicide, those beaten to death because of their gender or race, those ostracized by certain churches, those thrown out of their homes and disowned by their families owing to intolerance. Many of us tend to sort people into categories of education, class, gender, vocation, language. Thankfully, most of us are less prone to seeing anyone different as 'Satanic'. But, sadly, that is a prevalent view among some people and it brings division and hatred to the fore.

Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians says, "*Everything is for your sake, so that grace as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart.*" Paul is speaking of the struggle we endure on a daily basis. Faith is our resource to deal with that struggle. He promotes a trusted community as a source of grace. It is faith and community that gives us the strength to deny Satan any opportunity to steal our soul and, in spite of a world in turmoil, may we never lose heart.

Today's Gospel ends with Christ's mother and brothers and sisters standing outside a room where Jesus was teaching. When they called for him to come out, he said to those inside with him, "*Who are my mother and my brothers?*" Looking at those who sat around him, he said, "*Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*" This appears to be harsh and hurtful for his family but he is not rejecting them. His words are rather an invitation than a rejection. It is an invitation to widen our area of relationships and embrace all with trust, affection, companionship and support. It invites all of us to come inside, to take our place in the family of faith, the family of grace. It is Satan who tells us that others don't belong. It is the Holy Spirit who gathers us and breathes life into us and binds us together as people of God. May we constantly open our minds and our hearts and our arms to welcome all. May we become a faith united in the strength of the Spirit and to the glory of God!

Amen

The Communicator June 11, 2024