

The Communicator October 19, 2022



We had another wonderful Sunday with the Reverend Gillian Ball. What a gift she is to us and to our community. Again, at the request of a number of you, I have attached this week's powerful sermon to the end of The Communicator. Gillian will be back with us for Sunday, November 10 and the Day of Remembrance.

Next Sunday we are blessed by the presence of our former beloved Rector, the Reverend Tamara Newell.

I used this particular photo from Sunday to once again discuss whether or not we

should move services from 10:45 to 11. I have received responses arguing both sides of the question. Some say that we move it to 11 our congregation won't show up until 11:30. Your thoughts? Last Sunday we started the service with only 5 choir members, 7 worshipers and 3 dogs in the pews. By the sermon there were at least 35. Why is it impossible for our congregation to get to the church on time? Any ideas? Any remedies? On the other hand I watched online a service from a huge Episcopal Church in Virginia and they had fewer people in the pews than we did... so good on us..... I guess.

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The choir sounded great this past Sunday. It seems to be hitting its groove and we are delighted to have almost all of the past choir members back! We are grateful to organist Professor Victor Manuel for his continued Direction of the Choir and beautiful organ solos during the offertory each week. He has made our organ sound like the exquisite instrument it is. We are also grateful to Patricia, Yolanda, Suzie, Tim and Ian. By the way, they all get there in time to rehearse for at least 45 minutes before church starts. Hint. Hint.



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Our Rector, Father Doug, made it to church briefly on Sunday. It was grand seeing him there and we hope that each week he will be able to stay longer. We are not arranging coverage for the month of December in hopes that he will be back among us for Advent and Christmas.

We also welcome back so many of our members who have been traveling. Judy Frothingham, Wendy Blake, Roxanna Villa Michel, Isabel and William Graves, Onagh Ash, Laurie Rodrigues and others.

Thank you Dennis Larson for the generous donation of a new oven for our church. Magnolia Hall (and kitchen) is beginning to look very professional and spiffy.

Our lecture series will resume in January. John Mitchell is currently lining up a new season of speakers. We're going to change the day from Wednesday to a day open in the Parish Hall. Hopefully that will allow more to attend.

Mexican Current Events with Charlie Goff continues each Wednesday, 5-6:30, at the Cemanahuac Educational Community, 4 San Juan, Colonia Las Palmas. This is a free event open to anyone. It is always very stimulating and even more informative.



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Finally, the Divine Dogs Calendar has arrived and will be available at church this next Sunday. It will also be available online. It is \$115 pesos and features many of the divine dogs that grace our services each Sunday. .

Dog calendar thanks to Judy for spearheading the project, photographers Onagh and Maricela and Ivonne Cortinas who actually made sure it all was completed. We hope this calendar will be a major fundraiser for the SMAAA outreach program. Don't just buy one, buy ten and give them as Christmas presents!



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El Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia,
a través del Museo de San Ángel y Fomento Social María Félix, A. C.
invitan a la inauguración de la exposición:



Ofrenda
de muertos a
MARÍA FÉLIX
EN SAN ÁNGEL

24 de octubre, 2024 | 19 h
ENTRADA LIBRE
Sala de Temporales Planta Baja

informar: museos@inah.gob.mx
teléfono: 55 5622 1111 y 55 5622 1112 | www.inah.gob.mx
www.museoscultura.mx



Walter Lopez is sponsoring an opportunity this Thursday to see what promises to be a beautiful event, the opening of an *ofrenda* for the legendary Maria Felix.

Do you know how to build your own traditional ofrenda? Have you built one in the past? What are the required elements on every ofrenda and why? I thought you'd never ask.

The elements:

- Earth – Represented by food such as pan de los muertos (bread of the dead)
- Wind – Represented by papel picado (paper banners) moving in the air.
- Fire – Represented by a candle's flame (also matches)
- Water – Represented by a glass of water.

In addition: Salt, because the dead crave taste

Flowers (here always at least the cempachuchi)

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Photos of your deceased loved ones (check out the delightful and pretty accurate film Coco.)

Incense (preferably) copal help the dead to find their way back home.

Favorite foods, games, toys that will attract them.

Spending the time to build your altar gives you the opportunity to fully focus on your missing loved ones. It is perhaps the most important ritual of the year in Mexico.

To learn more you might consider attending Cuernavaca resident Stephen Justessen's offered event this year. Just reading the poster for this event will teach you a great deal about building an altar.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

NIKAN KĀ
A Place for Experiences
Saturday, Oct. 20, 1:00-4:00
www.nikan-ka.com

The altar is a complex creation with incredible symbolism as each element carries a specific meaning. Here are the most important elements and what they mean.

Levels
The altar can be made up of two, three or seven levels.
2 Levels
Represents the division between the earth and sky.
3 Levels
Represents the sky, earth and underworld.
7 Levels
The number seven refers to the seven levels that exist in the universe before reaching Heaven (the hell). It also relates to the Seven Deadly Sins.

Incense
A hotol with incense or copal for aromatic use is used in indigenous ceremonies to purify the soul of the dead and ward off evil spirits.

Water
A glass of water is placed on the altar around the first of the deceased as it helps them for their return journey.

Banquet
To celebrate the arrival of your deceased loved ones, a banquet of their favorite food and drink is placed as an offering.

Typical Food
As well as the deceased's favorite food items, altars usually contain traditional Day of the Dead breads such as Pan de Muerto, like, milk, pumpkin, sugar cane.

Calaveras
"Calaveras" are skulls and figurines of deceased loved ones made of sugar or of chocolate. They are often coated by milk or coffee to color the skulls and etc.

Day of the Dead
A loved Mexican celebration in which families gather to honor the memory of their deceased loved ones on Nov. 1 & 2. The altars are shown in use to enjoy the offerings of traditional delicacies. This tradition is a fusion of Catholic Spain and the Mesoamerican cultures.

Fire
Fire is the form of candles as are symbols of our love for our deceased loved ones and guiding lights for their spirits.

Paper
Offered usually "papel picado" or tissue paper. Typically in yellow and purple, made into intricate designs. They are representative of the union between life and death.

Flowers
Flowers are not just a beautiful color, addition to the altar.

YELLOW FLOWERS
In Compostela, are a guide for the spirits into the mortal world.

WHITE FLOWERS
Represents the sky, white.

PURPLE FLOWERS
are the traditional colors of mourning in Mexico.

White Cross
A cross made of lime is drawn on the ground under the altar. Originally representing the four cardinal points and the four elements, it also represents the Christian cross.

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As expats living in Mexico many of us have no dead actually buried here. Many years ago Charlie Goff and I started attending the grave of deceased artist resident John Spencer (Casona Spencer & Iglesia de Los Tres Reyes). We invited others to join us and have faithfully decorated John's grave for more than 15 years. Some years have been very elaborate and some years very simple but it has always been a meaningful experience for us and for many. If you would like to join in this opportunity, please let me hear from you and I will provide details of how and when.



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For Sunday, November 3, we will have the Saint Michael's altar in place. Isabel Graves is heading this effort but needs helping hands. We will be building the altar for your loved ones (YES WE NEED THEIR PHOTOS!) on Saturday, November 2 from 10-12. If you can help please let Isabel know. It would also be VERY helpful if you could bring your photos to the church service on October 27 so the photos can be incorporated into the altar when it is being built on November 2. Alternatively, bring them on November 2 and stay and help!!!.

November 3 is also both **Library and Birthday Sunday**. And, it is Story Hour for children at the Library... a big deal each month!!!

Last, but certainly not least, it's getting cold out there. San Pablo's ministry to the Homeless and Unfortunate needs our help with warm clothes, non-perishable food, cleaning supplies and toiletries. Pat Manners advises that it is helpful if you place the clothing in individual plastic bags so that items can be seen. Sweater and jackets of all sizes are greatly needed. There are two baskets at the back of the church waiting for your offerings.

Don't forget our weekly programs!!!

Yoga with Ann Tuesdays, 10-11 and Thursdays 11-12:30

Alexander Method with Rosie Land, Wednesdays, 10-11

Senior Club with Lorena, Fridays, 10-12

Vestry Meeting, October 28, 10AM.