

The Celtic Courier

November 2024

From the Rector

In the third installment of the Indiana Jones Trilogy, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, the explorer Indiana Jones ("Indy") sets out to rescue his father, Henry, a medievalist who has vanished while searching for the Holy Grail. In this quest, Indy is accompanied by an associate of questionable loyalty, Doctor Elsa Schneider, who is secretly collaborating with the Nazis to acquire the Holy Grail, which is ironically a source of power that will allow the Nazis to conquer the world.

Toward the end, Indy and Henry are forced to locate the temple which contains the Grail. Thankfully, they successfully acquire the Grail and free themselves of their Nazi captors. Elsa, however, attempts to escape with the Grail, triggering an earthquake. In the chaos, the Grail falls into a crevice, resting on a ledge. Just before she falls into the same crevice, Indy grabs Elsa by the hand. Alas, Elsa is seduced by the power of the Grail, and, despite Indy's many pleas that he needs both of her hands, she attempts to reach the Grail with her free hand and tragically slips out of Indy's grip, falling into the dark crevice.

At this point, another tremor hits and Indy, too, falls into the same crevice and is likewise seized by his father. As with Elsa, Indy is drawn to the Grail and attempts to reach for it, nearly suffering the same fate. Unlike Elsa, however, Indy is convinced by his father to give up the Grail and to let it be, allowing Indy to use both of his hands to grip his father as he is pulled out of the crevice to safety. Indy, Henry, and their friends all ride off into the proverbial sunset.

This is a helpful object lesson for our spiritual life. Like Indiana and, sadly, Elsa, we frequently strive for those things which inhibit our ability to receive life. I speak of the gift of life that is a gift freely given by God but which we cannot possibly receive while our hearts and our hands are full to capacity with other things of which we dare not let go.

Our Gospel reading on Sunday, October 13, was the story of the young rich man who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life? After giving confirmation that he has followed the law, Jesus responds, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." The text says that the man went away grieving because he "had many possessions."

Tethering this man in this story were the things from which the Spirit must pry open his vice-like grip one finger at a time, leaving his hands empty and free to stop grasping in order to receive. Each of us, too, are tethered and weighed down by the things we carry around with us as markers of our importance, our value, and guarantors of our security. We suppose that by gathering and gripping them, we are proving our worth and enhancing our prospects in this world and possibly the next: power, reputation, influence, career achievements, respectability, and popularity.

All these, and many others besides, can and do tether people, holding us back from being able to receive what is already ours in Christ, and which can, therefore, only ever be had as a gift freely given and freely received. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, helping us to open our hearts and our hands to be free at last, to be filled with and to hold on to the unimaginable Gift of Life in all its fullness that God has in store for us instead.

Faithfully yours,
Fr. Michael

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Wendie Roberts, Director of Family Ministry

Brett Hanley, Director of Music

Dates to Remember



- ✓ **All Saints Day**, Friday, November 1
- ✓ **Celtic Christmas Faire**, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturday, November 2 and 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 3
- ✓ **All Saints Sunday – Stewardship Sermon/ Daylight Saving Time Ends**, Sunday, November 3
- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays (except November 25 and 27)
- ✓ **Election Day**, Tuesday, November 5
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday, November 7 / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursdays, November 14 and 21
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21
- ✓ **Diocesan Convention**, Friday & Saturday, November 8-9
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., Friday, November 8
- ✓ **Veterans Day Holiday**, Monday, November 11
- ✓ **Guided Labyrinth Walk**, 10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 16
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., Sunday, November 17
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 20
- ✓ **Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting**, Monday-Wednesday, November 25-27
- ✓ **Evening Prayer & Pie Social at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 27
- ✓ **Thanksgiving Holiday/Parish Office Closed**, Thursday-Friday, November 28-29



Fr. Michael Anderson will be attending the **Diocesan Convention** on November 8-9. He will also be out of town **November 22-26**, attending a **conference**. The Rev. Susan Klein will lead us in worship on Sunday, November 24.

November Birthdays

Maurice Hill	3
Gene Doswell	20
Tatianna Kraft	25



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3.

Termite Treatment and Thanksgiving Holiday November 25-29

The week of **November 25**, the church and the parish office will be **closed** so that the buildings can be treated for termites. There will not be Morning Prayer (November 25 and 27) or Thursday Eucharist (November 28) that week.

The **Parish Office** will be **closed** on **Thursday and Friday, November 28-29**, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving blessings to you and yours!



SO MANY BLESSINGS

Rector: Our rector is the Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson. His email address is: michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.



The deadline for articles for the December *Celtic Courier* is November 15.



“Let there be for every pulse
a thanksgiving, and
for every breath a song.”
—Konrad von Gesner
(from *ChurchArt.com*)

THE CELTIC COURIER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
1251 Las Posas Road
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ISSUE 11

From the Treasurer

We continue to have a negative balance for the month and the year, but we continue to be at or below budgeted expenses. As you may remember, the 2024 budget deficit was projected to be \$58,000, because of the increase in expenses from having a full-time rector. To date, we only have a deficit of under \$20,000. The Children's Learning Center has graciously given us excess money to help bridge part of this budget gap!! We are still planning to use reserves, including the excess funds from 2023 and past years, and fundraising to cover the remaining deficit. You are all very generous, giving extra gifts when you can!

The Vestry, under Fr. Michael's leadership, continues to work on fundraising ideas and events. The Oktoberfest was a big success! We hope to net about \$2,500! This is half of what we wanted to fundraise for the year! The Celtic Christmas Faire is imminent on November 2 and 3. Please bring your family and friends to join us for these events!!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has been busy! There's a plan to tent the church and all of the buildings for termites. They're still diligently working to get a bid to repair the damage from the hives of bees above the sacristy and on that roof. The work isn't easy because of the location. The Committee is also working on other projects that need to be done. All the funds for these projects are coming from Designated Funds, not the budget that we use to pay salaries and normal operating expenses. And the CLC has also donated funds for some projects near their entrance in the rear of the church. We thank them profusely for those funds!

Part of these Designated Funds are grants from the Endowment Fund that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. Right now, we have a total of \$59,000 that we can spend on repairs and improvements! This is a good start to pay for what needs to be done.

It's not scary to us; it's an exciting time in our life as a parish! Everyone paying your pledge enables us to stay afloat, plan for the future, and support the work of our parish here in Camarillo! This can never be repeated enough: We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. You are all helping to support our efforts as we continue the work that God intends for us.

We'll be starting work on the 2025 Budget soon. Stay tuned for more details.

If anyone would like to join us on the Budget & Finance Committee or see what we're doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. We can truly use more help, thoughts, and ideas. We want to be transparent with expenses and income. If you would like to see the most recent Financial Report, please just ask. We don't take anyone and their contributions for granted. Thank you all!

Gail Hill, Treasurer

On Behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee

(Bev Pearson, Doug Miller, Maria Fernandez & Sarah Monroe-Allen)



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will be **Wednesday, November 20**. Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship, hosted by Michele Hauser, Diane Off, Beanie MacLaurie, and Jarrel Fuller, at **Noon** in the parish hall. **Sign up** on the bulletin board in the narthex.

From the Senior Warden

My dear friends,

Is it really November already? This time of the year, when the harvest is taking place, we always focus on remembering all for whom and for what we are most grateful. God's bounty is all around us here at St. Columba's. First, I will state again how very grateful we are for the presence and leadership of Fr. Michael and for his family. We are grateful for our St. Columba's family, for the children in our Children's Learning Center and their families and the staff, for the new faces we see in our pews, for the enthusiasm we see in our growing coffee hours after services, for those who take turns hosting coffee hours and facilitating other parish activities, for our LEMs, lectors, and acolytes, for our parishioners who loyally facilitate our food distribution programs, for the Altar Guild and the Flower Committee who work behind the scenes, for Carol in the office, for those who fervently pray, for the Monday Morning Work Crew, for our musicians, for those who teach our children, for those who help us manage our finances, and for the Vestry and all other leaders who step up and say, "Yes, I can do that."

November starts off with the Celtic Christmas Faire on November 2 and 3. There will be lots of vendors, crafts, music and food. Please come join in on the fun and do a little (or a lot!) of Christmas shopping.

The following Friday and Saturday, Fr. Michael and our Diocesan delegates and alternates will be going down to Riverside for the Annual Diocesan Convention.

On Monday, November 25, our buildings will be tented for termites. This will be a 3-day project.

Details for activities can be found in this *Celtic Courier*.

May you be blessed today and every day.

In Christ's love,
Susan Doswell



Thank you to everyone for making the Oktoberfest fundraiser a success. A very special thank you to our amazing cooks: Jarrel, Jenne, Jeannette, and Beanie. Thank you to Gail and Maurice, Carlos, Jerry, Jeff, and all the volunteers who served, poured, sold tickets, set up, and cleaned up. We're so thankful for our church family!

Gail and Paul Amendt

Walk in Love: Fall Pledge Campaign



Sundays in November	Look for the weekly <i>Walk in Love</i> reflection published in each Sunday bulletin for your reading and prayerful consideration.
Sunday, November 3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	Stewardship Sermon; 2025 pledge packets available.
Sunday, December 1	Please return your 2025 pledge card by today. Fr. Michael will bless all the pledge cards received to date.
	Periodically, parishioners will be sharing about Stewardship. Also, we will hear about St. Columba's Narrative Budget.

**Poem of the Month: "Thoughts Without Order
Concerning the Love of God"**

by Dana Littlepage Smith

The kingdom of my kitchen invites one snail
to measure a carrot peel with the full length
of her body. Of Christ and necessity this snail says
nothing. The celery shines. By morning, my countertops,
my floor will glisten with the star road of her
meanderings.
It measures a universe of dark and light in silence.
The fleshed heart of the strawberry, the skirts of
daffodils:
each in its turn holds this snail's antennae attention.
To fold into the curve of time and space, exactly
as things are, is this creature's genius and my intent,
daily in the kingdom of my dark kitchen
where life arrives with its glorious abandon.

Thanksgiving Humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?
Because it was stuffed.
Why did the turkey cross the road twice?
To prove he wasn't a chicken.
What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?
Your nose.
Why didn't the chef season the turkey?
There wasn't enough thyme.
Why did the turkey leave the band?
People were fighting over the drumsticks.

(from ChurchArt.com)

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



The Harvest Festival has become a beloved October tradition, complete with a pumpkin patch, face painting, "cows" to milk, and Captain Carl and his sea creatures. Children in costumes and cars decked out for Trunk or Treat capped off the holiday celebrations! Now we head into the season of giving thanks, and we have so very much to be thankful for: Ms Bec and her amazing staff of dedicated teachers, Coach Ant who keeps us physically active, Fr. Michael who leads us in Chapel, and all of our wonderful families. We wish each of you a blessed season of thanks as well.

Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board



Three Congregations Taizé

If you're interested in a contemplative, meditative type of worship, the Three Congregations (Camarillo United Methodist, Mount Cross Lutheran, and St. Columba's Episcopal Churches) are offering in-person Taizé-style prayer, held in the intimate setting of the Mount Cross sanctuary (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) on the 2nd Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**Friday, November 8** this month. For those unfamiliar with this type of prayer, Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer. The meditative singing of simple refrains repeated many times allows the words—often as simple as "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"—to truly settle into our hearts.

If you are interested in participating as a musician, lector, or intercessor, please contact the Mount Cross office (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847).

Gratitude Guided Labyrinth Walk



Join us on **Saturday, November 16**, at **10:00 a.m.** for a Gratitude Labyrinth Walk, led by facilitator Linda Drevenstedt. The labyrinth is located behind the church and preschool. It is a wonderful way to focus spiritually within a walking prayerful meditation. Light refreshments and time for fellowship will be provided after the walk. We will also be collecting food for St. Columba's food pantry. Come celebrate all that you're thankful for. See Gail or Paul Amendt for more information.

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Prayer

All are invited to Mount Cross Lutheran Church (102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo 93010) on **Wednesday, November 27**, at **7:00 p.m.** for sung **Evening Prayer**, with a brief message, and a **Pie Social** following prayer with our friends from Mount Cross and Camarillo United Methodist Church.



Looking Ahead to December

Our annual **Advent Wreath-Making** Event with Mount Cross will take place **Sunday, December 1**. All are invited to Mount Cross (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) to learn about the history of Advent while also making an Advent wreath. We'll enjoy fellowship and food with a Blue Zone hospitality time after 9:30 a.m. worship and welcoming back Pastor Julie Morris from her sabbatical, then make our wreaths. If you have your Advent wreath metal ring from last year, bring it to decorate, but new rings will also be available, along with candles. There is a suggested donation for those who need candles and/or wreaths (\$5 for candles & \$5 for wreaths). We hope to see you! Please sign up online: <https://signup.com/go/HBcqsVq>



ME MYSELF I

Me, myself, and I might not be enough.

I'm looking for my better attitude and sense of purpose. It might help to better cope with life to accept things that I can't change. Then there is more energy for events under my control.

My friends and family are precious to me. They are here when I need someone to talk to and are close by when life is less stable. Life transitions are a challenge. Transition gives me time to rediscover what's meaningful to me.

I will re-examine some priorities, give it another try, and laugh more.

Take a few deep breaths, relax from strife, find awe in the quiet spirit of peace.







The Parish Nurses

Re: [MCPRESS.MayoClinic.org/HealthLetter](https://mcpres.mayoclinic.org/HealthLetter) – "Special Report: The Power of Connections and Purpose"



NOVEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 All Saints Sunday/ Daylight Saving Time Ends Holy Eucharist 9:30— Stewardship Sermon Celtic Christmas Faire 11:00-3:00 PH</p>	<p>4 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>5 Election Day Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>6 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>Fr. Michael Anderson will be away at a conference November 22-26.</p>	<p>1 All Saints' Day Set up for Celtic Christmas Faire 10:00-3:00 PH</p>	<p>2 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.) Celtic Christmas Faire 10:00-3:00 PH</p>
<p>10 Pentecost 25B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>12 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>13 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>7 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Project Hope: 5:00-6:00 PH Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>8 Diocesan Convention Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross 7:00 </p>	<p>9 Diocesan Convention</p>
<p>17 Pentecost 26B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45</p>	<p>18 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>19 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>20 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Lunch Bunch 12:00 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>14 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>15 Courier Deadline</p>	<p>16 Labyrinth Walk 10:00 (Scouts Family Camp Backup)</p>
<p>24 Last Pentecost B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30</p>	<p>25 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting</p>	<p>26 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting</p>	<p>27 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting Holden Evening Prayer and Pie Social at Mount Cross 7:00</p>	<p>21 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Last Pentecost B Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30</p>	<p>25 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting</p>	<p>26 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting</p>	<p>27 Church and Office Closed for Termite Tenting Holden Evening Prayer and Pie Social at Mount Cross 7:00</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving/Parish Office Closed </p>	<p>29 Thanksgiving Holiday/Parish Office Closed </p>	<p>30</p>

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www.stcolumbaca.com

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ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Saturday, November 2, 2024
10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 3, 2024
11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Do your Christmas shopping in our parish hall! Purchase holiday gifts and crafts made by St. Columba's parishioners and local vendors including:

Amy Levitt, Barbara Carbajal, Bliss Street Baked Goods, Crafty Grandma, Dalya's, Dianna's Gourds, EarthsCandyCrystals, Glass Wizard, Greg's Board, Jennie Madden, Larglassworks, Little This and That Gifts, Maria's Creative Gourds, Marsha Dean, My Sage Gourmet, Patricia Thorngreen, Simply Smitten Jewelry, Spirit Spa Soap, Topanga's Finest, Inc, Ventura Senior Craft

and Food Vendors: Fatso's Tacos, Mr. Softee