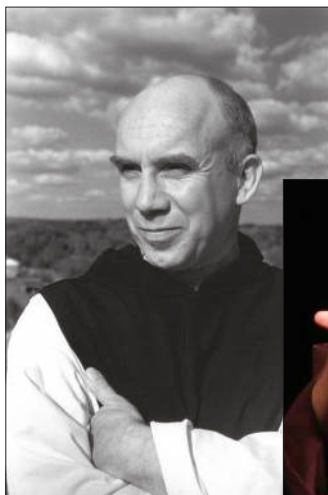


## Thomas Merton, a Saint for All Seasons

FROM CHRISTINA HONCHELL, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Forty-seven years ago, Thomas Merton stopped at Our Lady of the Redwoods Abbey in Humboldt County on his way to Japan, India and Thailand. He said to those gathered: "There is here an authentic atmosphere of prayer. Enjoy this. Drink it all in. Everything – the redwood forests, the sea, the sky, the waves, the birds, the sea lions. It is in all this that you will find your answers. Here is where everything connects." Merton's whole life was about making connections: between East and West, between the religious and secular worlds, between art and God, between nature and humanity, between the material and the spirit, between faith and social justice. He was a prophet, a mystic and an activist, at a time when many in the church were not able to make those connections.

Merton has been a saint for all seasons in my life. When I was beginning my serious faith discernment in my thirties, I carried a book of Merton's poetry with me everywhere I went. I loved the "beat" quality of it; Merton loved jazz, and that love oozed out through his words and rhythms. When church teachings wore me down, I turned to *New Seeds of Contemplation* where he taught me the primacy of love over knowledge or experience or doctrine. I wanted to be a Christian because he was one. And when the civil wars in our south brought refugees and migrants north, I found solace in his writing about peace, racism and dehumanization in *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*. When more recently I found myself turning to Buddhism to help me understand the suffering in my life, I turned again to the Christian monk who famously said, "I want to become as good a Buddhist as I can," and im-



Thomas Merton and Dan Horan



mersed myself in his *Asian Journal*.

This year is the centennial of Merton's birth, and we have been having a wonderful Year of Merton here at All Saints: from Ed Bacon's inspiring preaching, to Gary Hall's summer forum, to the musical wonders of Merton poetry expressed by Open Gate Theater, to a thrilling new documentary by Morgan Atkinson screened here in September. We are capping off the year in a grand way, with a visit from Dan Horan, O.F.M., a Franciscan priest who wrote the wonderful book, *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*, and who was highly praised and recommended to us by Richard Rohr as someone we needed in our life. Dan will lead us in an Advent Quiet Day on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 19, titled "Thomas Merton and the Challenge of Faith in a Complex World," and will be our preacher and Rector's Forum speaker on Sunday, Dec. 20.

A few weeks back I spent some days at La Casa de Maria in Montecito for a retreat Dan offered, centered on Merton's writing on contemplation and social action. On that last trip to Asia in 1968, before Merton stayed at the abbey in Humboldt, he stayed on the grounds of La Casa. I've been on retreat there dozens of times over the last 30 years, but I'd never intentionally stepped in his footprints, and been so aware of that holy ground. I am thrilled that Dan is going to bring his wisdom, passion and pastoral presence to be with us to close out the Merton Year. Give yourself the best sort of gift this December and plan to be with us for a very special weekend.

You can register for the Quiet Day at <http://bit.ly/1Y3rkKU> or at the Sign Up Center. For more information email [jhebert@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jhebert@allsaints-pas.org).

# December

## Wonderful Advent Services and Events

### Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, Dec. 6, 5:00 p.m.** in the church. In the warm ambience of the candlelit church, Coventry Choir offers motets, carols and canticles of intense, mystical beauty. A meditation by Ed Bacon focuses on the meaning of the coming of the Christ in a contemporary context. The choir, directed by James Walker, will perform music of Palestrina, Ireland, Mendelssohn, Montoya, Busto and Howells. Child care provided. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org).

### Homeless Memorial

**Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:00 p.m.** in the church. Each year, thousands of homeless men and women die on the streets of our nation due to illness, exposure or violence, many from our very own community of Pasadena. These individuals die without the dignity and respect they deserve. Please join us as we honor and acknowledge their lives and membership in the human family. A reception follows in Sweetland Hall. Information = Juliana Serrano 626.583.2721 or [jserrano@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jserrano@allsaints-pas.org).

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Service Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of All Saints' Spanish Service

**Sunday, Dec. 13, 1:00 p.m.** in the church. We celebrate the feast of the *Virgen de Guadalupe*, the patron saint of the Americas, and the fact that for 10 years the Spanish service at All Saints has been a spiritual home for Latino/Hispanics in the Pasadena area and its surroundings. Join us for this beautiful service full of candles, roses, and joyful song steeped in our Latino religious tradition. This service is bilingual, Spanish/English. *Pan dulce* and *antojitos* will be served after the service. Antonio Gallardo preaches; Dan Cole offers music. Information = Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or [aramirez@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:aramirez@allsaints-pas.org).

### Advent Evening Service

**Sunday, Dec. 13, 5:00 p.m.** in the church. Trouvères, Youth Chamber Choir and *Vox Cambiata* with handbells and piano offer music of Helvey, Englert, Shepperd, Stokes and Norris. Jeremy Langill offers a meditation. Child care provided. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org).

## Advent Quiet Day: Thomas Merton and the Challenge of Faith in our Complex World

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Forum. Franciscan monk Dan Horan leads this Advent Quiet Day, centering on the contemporary relevance, insight, and inspiration of Thomas Merton, renowned American author and Trappist Monk. Register online at <http://bit.ly/1Y3rkKU> or at the Sign Up Center. \$10 registration fee. Information = Jamie Hebert at 626.583.2733

## Christmas Eve and Day at All Saints

**Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24:** 3:00 p.m. Family Service; 5:30 p.m. Festive Eucharist in Spanish (Learning Center); 5:30, 8:00, 11 p.m. Festive Eucharists (Church). All Christmas Eve services are well attended. Please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early to ensure seating.

**Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25:** 10:30 a.m. Eucharist (Spanish-English Service).

Details of the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve services will appear in the special Christmas Issue of Saints Alive, coming soon. Child care will be provided for all services.

## Money Matters!

**W**ith holiday spending upon us, it is a great time to look at your credit score and see if there is room for improvement. This could be the best Christmas gift you give yourself this year!

### 4 Tips to Raise Your Credit Score:

- **Pay bills on time.** Your payment history accounts for approximately 35% of your credit score, so it is important to pay your bills on time, every time. If you routinely miss payments, even by 1 day, consider setting up automatic payments for more than the minimum due each month. The longer you have a positive payment history, the better your score.
- **Keep your balances low.** Having a lot of credit available does not mean you should use all of it. Credit utilization accounts for approximately 30% of your credit score, and looks at how much you use on each individual account, as well as your overall available credit. If you have high balances on multiple cards, start paying down the one with the highest interest rate first (while also maintaining payments on all other cards). Try to use 30% or less of your available credit to maintain the best possible score.
- **Don't close old accounts.** The average length of your credit history is a key part of your credit score. Closing your oldest credit account can significantly cut the length of your average credit history. Similarly, resist the urge to open a lot of new accounts in a short time, because your average account age is also lowered when you open new accounts.
- **Get your free credit report.** Even if you keep your balances low and pay your bills on time, you may still be a victim of identity theft. Getting your free credit reports on a regular basis will help you monitor your credit history and prepare you for those big purchases down the road that require loans. While some websites will provide reports from all three credit-reporting agencies, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion, at one time, consider getting a report directly from one of the agencies every four months. And when you notice mistakes, get them fixed ASAP by requesting in writing (or sometimes online) that incorrect information is removed.

**Up next month:** Ways to deduct more on your taxes. Contact Jim Loduha in the Giving Office at [jloduha@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jloduha@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2736, with questions about giving or pledging.

CONNECT  
INSPIRE  
TRANSFORM

### Pasadena Symphony Presents Holiday Candlelight Concert

**Saturday, Dec. 19, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.** Top off the holiday season and enjoy fully reserved seating in the architecturally exquisite and acoustically sonorous All Saints Church, Pasadena's equivalent of a classic European cathedral. Vocalist Christina Saffran joins an array of choruses in this festive concert of traditional and diverse holiday melodies performed by candlelight – an aural respite that is sure to summon the spirit of the season. Tickets sell out quickly! Purchase tickets by calling 626.793.7172 or visiting [www.PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org](http://www.PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org).

### Advent Evensong

**Sunday, Dec. 20, 5:00 p.m.** in the church. Canterbury Choir with brass and percussion ensemble offer *Gloria* by John Rutter. Susan Russell offers a meditation; Ed Bacon presides. This special evensong service is a wonderful way to close the Advent season and prepare for the glory of Christmas. Child care provided. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org).

Altar flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special event, or to give thanks for someone who has touched your life. To donate flowers for the altars, please call 626.796.1172.

## Transition Life Happenings

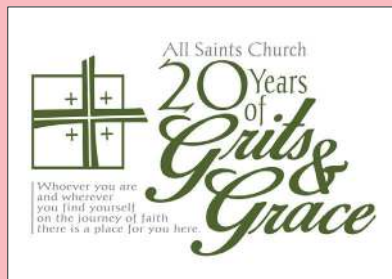
### Celebrate Ed Bacon's Last Year

Save these dates now, and celebrate Ed Bacon's time at All Saints Church!

- December 20 - Baby Jesus Celebration
- January 10, 2016 - Reza Aslan
- January 30, 2016 - Tim Wise
- March 12-13, 2016 - Dan Siegel: Meditation and Brain Health weekend
- April 3, 2016 - Richard Rohr
- April 22, 2016 - Roast and Champagne reception, open to all.
- May 1, 2016 - 10 a.m. All-Parish service on the Street. Ed's last Sunday!

## 20 Years of Grits & Grace

On December 20 please visit the mural on the lawn and add your artistic vision to our celebration of 20 years of grits and grace! Find an image that speaks to you, grab a Sharpie, and add a bit more color to All Saints' already vibrant history! Volunteers are on the lawn ready to answer questions or help.



## End of Year Tax Deductions

All Saints continues to make a positive and lasting impact in lives throughout the community because of your generosity. In order to close December and our 2015 budget strong, and to have every dollar count toward your 2015 tax deductions, all contributions must be post-marked and stock transferred to All Saints on or before Thursday, Dec. 31. Contributions received after that day will not appear on your 2015 giving statement. Make pledge payments or give special year-end Christmas gifts at [www.allsaints-pas.org/support/donate](http://www.allsaints-pas.org/support/donate), or drop your contributions off at the office by 5 p.m. on December 31. Contributions can also be given at the New Year's Eve Service. For more information call the Giving Office at 626.583.2736 or email [JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org).

## Pledge for 2016 Today

2015 was an outstanding year for pledging at All Saint. It is crucial for this momentum of God's generous love flowing through our church to continue during the coming year. Thank you to everyone who has already committed a 2016 pledge! Every pledge matters and we invite you to pledge generously toward our 2016 budget by completing a pledge card from the pews or online at [www.allsaints-pas.org/support/pledge](http://www.allsaints-pas.org/support/pledge). For more information about pledging, please call the Giving Office at 626.583.2736 or email [JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org).

## 2016 Offering Envelope Distribution

Help us use your contributions wisely. Offering envelopes for 2016 pledges will be available on the lawn December 13 and 20, and January 3 and 10. Every set that is picked up will save All Saints more than \$2.00 in postage.

## Alternative Christmas Market

Reclaim the Christmas story with an alternative to the consumer frenzy that has overtaken the Christmas season on Sunday, Dec. 6, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., when the Alternative Christmas Market brings together non-profit organizations that address a variety of social issues on a local, national, and international level to give you the opportunity to do much good on behalf of those on your gift list. Look for our shopping list and catalog online near the end of the month. If you'd like to volunteer at this festive event please contact [acm@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:acm@allsaints-pas.org).

## December Adult Education Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

December 13

**Jesus, Homelessness, and Serving the Poor on Skid Row**  
with Jeff Dietrich

For four decades L.A. Catholic Workers Jeff Dietrich and his wife Catherine Morris have centered their lives on the spiritual task of feeding the homeless. They have committed themselves to living in voluntary poverty with a small band of faithful followers who tirelessly continue to see and serve Jesus in the poor of Los Angeles, despite much adversity. Come hear inspiring stories from their lives and work as recorded in Jeff's most recent book. SWEETLAND HALL

**Elaine Pagels: The Gospel of Truth**

with Video Excerpts of Elaine's Teaching and Dialogue Led by Sally Howard & Jon Dephouse  
Diversity and ferment were at the very heart of early Christianity. Women's voices and perspectives were strong and at the center of the many different ideas about who Jesus was and what his life meant. Perhaps no one has done more to unpack the complexity of early Christianity than Princeton professor of religion Elaine Pagels. Dr. Pagels explores first century texts illustrating alternative orthodoxies focusing on transformation and the equality of all members of the Body of Christ. Join us for a re-viewing of some of the key excerpts from her recent presentation at All Saints. Sally Howard and Jon Dephouse will facilitate a discussion in response to the teachings. GUILD ROOM

## World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, people will assemble across the globe to observe World Aids Day. Advocates and faith communities will unite their voices to remember the 30 million who have died of AIDS and to pray for and stand in solidarity with our neighbors living with HIV today. Stand with us in candlelight! Vigils will also take place in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire. In partnership with the Foothill AIDS Project, All Saints will host a vigil on our lawn December 1 from 8-9 p.m. Co-sponsors include: the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance and ChapCare.

## Angel Tree for Foster Care Kids

Each year All Saints Church provides Christmas gifts to over 700 children in foster care. You can make a difference in the life of a child this Christmas by choosing a green tag from the tree in Regas House. Many children in foster care will only receive one gift during the holidays, so please make this part of your Christmas tradition and choose a tag that matches your giving ability. Please return UNWRAPPED gifts before Dec. 18. More information = Jamie, [jhebert@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jhebert@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2733.

## The It's Not-A-Party Party Returns!

All Women of All Saints are invited to the annual Not-a-Party (Party!) Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Teri Valentine's Home, 4819 Oakwood Ave., La Canada. Please bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share and a donation of \$20. Proceeds will go to the Pasadena Community College Veterans Services Office. Please RSVP to Gail Gunther, [tngunther@aol.com](mailto:tngunther@aol.com), or 626.441.3511.

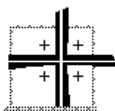
## Who Pays the Price for our Clothing?

Ever wonder what inequities lurk behind the glamour and artistry of the fashion industry, or why clothing prices have dropped in a new era of "fast fashion?" Conscientious Projector joins with VisionLA Fest '15 to answer these questions via the new documentary *The True Cost* on Thursday, Dec. 10, 7:00 p.m. at Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond in Old Pasadena. The film takes us around the world to show how the human and environmental costs of manufacturing our clothes have risen dramatically. Admission is free. The facility is accessible to disabled persons. Info = Marty Coleman at 818.517.8878.

## 3rd Annual Gun Violence Prevention Vigil

Sunday, Dec. 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the All Saints Lawn. In this vigil we remember people killed by gun violence and recommit to preventing the epidemic of gun violence. Interfaith leaders include: the Rev. Ed Bacon, Pastor Kerwin Manning (Pasadena Church), Cantor Ruth Berman Harris (Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center), and the Rev. Hannah Petrie (Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church). Information = Sandy Padgett, 818.495.8206 or [sandypad@att.net](mailto:sandypad@att.net).





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## Events and Opportunities

• **LGBTQ Holiday Party Dec. 6** • Come join us for the LGBTQ Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Sweetland Hall. We need volunteers to set up, decorate, clean up, and also people who can play the piano, or provide other musical entertainment. Info = [LG-BTQ@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:LG-BTQ@allsaints-pas.org).

• **Liliana's Famous Tamales for Christmas!**  
• Please help support the Trouveres fund raising efforts for their tour to Picfest in June, 2016. Orders will be taken for tamales on December 6 and 13. Tamales must be picked up on December 20 in Sweetland Hall. Please place your tamale order in the sign up center. Tamales are sold

for \$20 a dozen. Cheese with Rajas, Chicken with Vegetables, Pork with Green Chile and Sweet (pineapple, raisin and cinnamon).

• **Naomi Klein Documentary *This Changes Everything*** • Sunday, Dec. 13, 2:30 p.m. in the Forum. Renowned author and social activist Naomi Klein's new breakthrough documentary *This Changes Everything*, based on her eponymous best-seller, will be screened with a discussion to follow. Please join us for what should be a compelling event. Meet members of All Saints' Climate and Economic Justice & Nonviolence task forces, Sustainable World, EDEN and Conscientious Projector as we gather with dedicat-

ed friends from various other local climate and sustainability groups to help mend the fabric of life on Earth. "(Climate change is) about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe."

### • **Fiction Fun! Christmas Party!**

• *Fiction Fun!* celebrates Christmas on Friday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! We hope you can be there for our annual holiday potluck and party. This year's party will be held in a private home. For information call Rusty Harding at 323.252.2805.

• **Volunteers Needed for Homeless Meals** • With El Niño on the horizon, more volunteers will be needed to cook

and serve supper to our homeless friends at the Bad Weather Shelter on Thursday nights from December through February. The Shelter, under the auspices of Friends in Deed, is in Covenant Church, 539 N. Lake Avenue. Volunteers are generally assigned to one Thursday each month. This is a great way to make friends while helping with this much needed and appreciated ministry. For info or to sign up, contact Dorothy Christ at [dlchrist4@gmail.com](mailto:dlchrist4@gmail.com).

### • **2016 Pasadena Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey**

• Volunteer to count in the streets of Pasadena through the Office for Urban Initiatives. Counters will be sent in teams of 2-3, on Wednesday,

Jan. 27, from: 6-8 a.m. AND 8-10 p.m. (Same teams will go out both morning and evening). Each Counter is required to attend one orientation meeting on: Tuesday, Jan. 19, OR Monday, Jan. 25, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Sofia Herrera at [sofia-herrera@urban-initiatives.org](mailto:sofia-herrera@urban-initiatives.org) or 626.304.3753 OR David Kim at [davidkim5@fuller.edu](mailto:davidkim5@fuller.edu) or 626.304.3787. Or sign up at [www.pasadenapartnership.org](http://www.pasadenapartnership.org).

### Praying for Others:

If you are interested in praying for others, please call the Prayer Line at 626.583.2707 or [prayers@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:prayers@allsaints-pas.org).

Have you included All Saints in your will or estate plan? If you'd like to learn more about making a planned gift, call the Giving Office at 626.583.2736