

# THE Episcopal News Weekly



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SERVING THE SIX-COUNTY DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 21, 2014

## From the Presiding Bishop: 'May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide'

The altar hanging at an English Advent service was made of midnight blue, with these words across its top: "We thank you that darkness reminds us of light." Facing all who gathered there to give thanks were images of night creatures — a large moth, an owl, a badger, and a bat — cryptic and somewhat mysterious creatures that can only be encountered in the darkness.



As light ebbs from the days and the skies of fall, many in the Northern Hemisphere associate dark with the spooks and skeletons of secular Hallowe'en celebrations. That English church has reclaimed the connection between creator, creation, and the potential holiness of all that is. It is a fitting reorientation toward the coming of One who has altered those relationships toward new possibilities for healing and redemption.

Advent leads us into darkness and decreasing light. Our bodies slow imperceptibly with shorter days and longer nights, and the merriness and frantic activity around us are often merely signs of eager hunger for light and healing and wholeness.

The Incarnation, the coming of God among us in human flesh, happened in such a quiet and out of the way place that few noticed at first. Yet the impact on human existence has been like a bolt of lightning that continues to grow and generate new life and fire in all who share that hunger.

Jesus is among us like a flitting moth — will we notice his presence in the street-sleeper? He pierces the dark like a silent, streaking owl seeking food for hungry and defenseless nestlings. He will overturn this world's unjust foundations like badgers undermining a crooked wall. Like the bat's sonar, his call comes to each one uniquely — have we heard his urgent "come and follow"?

God is among us, and within us, and around us, encountering, nudging, loving, transforming the world and its creatures toward the glorious dream the shepherds announced so many years ago, toward the beloved community of prophetic dreams, and the nightwatch that proclaims "all is well, fear not, the Lord is here."

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide. May his light burn in you, and may you labor to spread it in the darkness. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it is the harbinger of peace for all creation.

**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**  
*Presiding Bishop and Primate*  
*The Episcopal Church*

## Lorenzo Lebrija named bishop's officer for development, associate at St. Athanasius'

Bishop J. Jon Bruno announced to Diocesan Convention that he has named the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija — an experienced fundraising professional who



JANET KAWAMOTO

will be ordained to the priesthood in January — to a dual role serving the diocese as bishop's officer for development and as parish associate of the Congregation of St. Athanasius at the Cathedral Center in Echo Park.

"Lorenzo has begun his work proactively with great energy, and I am very glad to welcome him to his important ministries," Bruno said of Lebrija, who addressed Diocesan Convention to introduce the new Horizons & Heritage Fund established by the Corporation of the Diocese to raise at least \$600,000 to aid diocesan mission congregations, campus ministries, and creative initiatives.

"When you have big dreams you attract other big dreamers," Lebrija told the News. "Our table conversations at convention showed that in this diocese we have some big dreams. That's very exciting."

A 2014 graduate of the General Theological Seminary in New York, Lebrija was in 2007-2009 program director of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, coordinating some \$12 million in annual giving. Thereafter he oversaw fundraising as chief executive of a Miami-based professional chamber choir and orchestra known as Seraphic Fire.

"Fundraising is a unique ministry," he noted. "It's offering other people the opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission ... to me, this is a sacred ministry which I take very seriously and always center it on God."

Lebrija may be contacted at the Cathedral Center, 213.482.2040, ext. 257, or by email at [llebrija@ladiocese.org](mailto:llebrija@ladiocese.org).



## The Episcopal News is online

The Winter 2015 issue of The Episcopal News bimonthly magazine has been posted online

This issue includes complete coverage of Diocesan Convention (held Dec. 5 - 6), as well as a report on new honorary canons of the diocese, photos of the Episcopal Schools conference held recently in Anaheim, news of the diocesan community and notes of upcoming events, including those commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Church of St. Athanasius, the oldest continuing Episcopal congregation in the Southland.

The News is available in editions suitable for print and for online viewing at [www.episcopalnews.com](http://www.episcopalnews.com).

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 —

4 p.m. **Advent Lessons & Carols (bilingual)**  
Holy Trinity Church  
100 N. Third Avenue, Covina  
Information: 626.967.3939

4 p.m. **Blue Christmas Service**  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
419 South 4th Street, Redlands  
Information: 909.793.2014

5 p.m. **Advent Evensong**  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
132 N. Euclid Street, Pasadena  
Information: 626.583.2750

6 p.m. **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
All Saints' Episcopal Church  
504 N Camden Drive, Beverly Hills  
Information: 310.275.0123

— MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 —

7 p.m. **Blue Christmas Service**  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
24901 Orchard Village Road, Santa Clarita  
Information: 661.259.7307

— FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 - 4 —

**Retreat: 'Healing and Re-engaging with Church'**  
Mt. Calvary Monastery and Retreat House  
505 E. Los Olivos, Santa Barbara  
Registration: [mtcalvary1@aol.com](mailto:mtcalvary1@aol.com) / 805.682.4117

— SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 —

11 a.m. **Virtual Labyrinth: Spiritual Formation**  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
1145 West Valencia Mesa Drive, Fullerton  
Information: [paulnanita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulnanita@sbcglobal.net)

— SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 —

4:30 p.m. **Solemn Evensong & Organ Concert**  
St. James' Episcopal Church  
3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010  
Information: 213.388.3015

Event listings and program details may be found at [www.ladiocese.org](http://www.ladiocese.org) (select "Calendars")

## FROM THE BISHOPS

*The Bishops of the  
Diocese of Los Angeles  
and their families  
wish you and  
those you love  
a blessed Christmas  
and joy in the New Year.*

*J. Jon Bruno and Mary Bruno  
Diane Jardine Bruce and Stephen Bruce  
Mary D. Glasspool and Becki Sander*



BACKGROUND / CHERESNEW@SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO / CHRISTINITY

## Coming up in January: MLK celebration, Bishops' Ball

Mark your calendars now for two popular annual events in the New Year.

### Bishop Wright of Atlanta to keynote Martin Luther King Day event

The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, will deliver the keynote address at the 2015 diocesan celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The event will take place at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles 90026, at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17.

### Bishops' Ball planned for Jan. 31 in Los Angeles

The annual Bishops' Ball for high-school age youth of the diocese will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 at St. Mary's Church, 961

S. Mariposa Avenue, Los Angeles 90006. Theme for the event, which will be coordinated by the Rev. Nancy Frausto of St. Mary's, is inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel *The Great Gatsby*. The Bishops' Ball has traditionally featured music, food, games and fellowship. All youth of the diocese, with their leaders, are invited to attend. Further details will be published in early January issues of the Episcopal News Update and Weekly. †

*The Episcopal News Update and Weekly will be on hiatus until the second Sunday in January. The News staff wishes its readers a joyous Christmastide and a happy New Year.*

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## Episcopal News Weekly

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FEATURED ITEM:

THE 1979 BCP AND NRSV BIBLE

## Did you know?

The Diocese of Los Angeles has a full-service Credit Union.

The Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union has been in existence since 1994, and any Episcopalian in the diocese can join.

### ECFCU offers a full line of financial products:

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