

Sunday, October 3, 2021  
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi

# THE GAZETTE



**St. Athanasius Episcopal Church**

840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026 • (213) 482-2040, ext 201 • [www.saintala.org](http://www.saintala.org)



## Celebrating the Heritage of the Americas

**9:30 am ONLY - hybrid service**

**Bilingual Multicultural Celebration**  
**St. A members represent Bolivia, Ecuador,**  
**El Salvador, Guatemala,**  
**Mexico, and USA.**

**10:45 am – Potluck lunch.**

**Bring a traditional dish from what you consider to be your culture to share. After lunch, stay for a program featuring a video of congregants by Amanda Vasquez (see instructions to make your own video on p 4), plus songs and dances of the Americas.**

### Worship at St. A, Sundays, 11:00am

Due to the Delta variant surge, services will be all-virtual, except for **hybrid (both in person and virtual)** on the second Sunday of each month. Services can be seen on Facebook Live, [facebook.com/saintainla](https://www.facebook.com/saintainla), and Zoom,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98503216673>

**Social media platforms:** Videos of services, sermon texts, and other news are posted:

**St. A website:** [www.saintala.org](http://www.saintala.org)

**Instagram:** [saintainla](https://www.instagram.com/saintainla)

**YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQJfmjT3BhrpQHM2eUN4W5rlvOEWA\\_Xeg](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQJfmjT3BhrpQHM2eUN4W5rlvOEWA_Xeg)

**L.A. Diocese:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCva0NDh1tfkDNXJxP1NILfA> or

<https://www.facebook.com/LADiocese>

**Donate:** [www.saintala.org/donate](http://www.saintala.org/donate)

### Coming Up at St. A

**Food Bank, Fridays, 7am-9am**

**October 3, 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. Francis Feast Day**

**11:00am – Virtual Eucharistic Service**  
**12:00pm – Coffee Hour**

**October 9, Saturday, 3:00pm**

**St. A Interfaith Book Study will join All Saints-Pasadena watch party for new documentary about Pauli Murray, see p. 3.**

**October 10, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:30am ONLY - hybrid**  
**Celebrating the Heritage of the Americas**

**October 15, 7-9pm, Friday Shabbat, Nefesh**

[www.nefeshla.org](http://www.nefeshla.org)

**October 16, Saturday 3:00 pm**

**Make up session for St. A Interfaith Book Study**

**October 17, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**11:00am – Virtual Eucharistic Service**  
**12:00pm – Sermon Roundtable**



## Meet Eric Stoltz

Eric is one of those rare native Angelenos. His maternal grandmother's family came to Los Angeles from Sinaloa in 1899, and his maternal grandfather's family came to California from Maine during the Gold Rush. He is the eldest of six children, with another brother and four sisters.

Eric grew up attending Catholic schools, and then USC. He spent several years in his first career, marketing communications. In the early days of the Internet, he decided he wanted to be a part of it, so he taught himself web development and spent several years as a consultant until the Great Recession hit. Eric took the first job that was offered him, as a front-end engineer for a startup. He eventually started to specialize in user experience design, designing software. Today he is a principal user experience designer for a cloud video security startup...and glad to explain what that entails.

Following four years of formation, Eric was ordained a deacon by Cardinal Roger Mahony at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in 2004 and spent 15 years in active ministry. He served in parishes in Hancock Park, Beverly Hills, and Hollywood, and enjoyed prison ministry at the Men's Central Jail. He helped organize three interfaith pilgrimages to the Holy Land with Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It was then that Eric first met Father Frank, and David Streit was on the first pilgrimage.

At his best friend's wedding, Eric met Cássio, and he decided to leave active ministry to pursue the relationship. He and Cássio married in May 2019, and they live happily with two cats in the South Park neighborhood. Eric and Cássio enjoy local restaurants and traveling, most recently to Greece.

Eric remembered Father Frank had been assigned to St. A and decided to check out the community. He's so glad he did, and St. A members are certainly appreciative of his technical expertise during the Zoom services. Thanks, Eric!



## Prayers and Thanksgivings

**We** continue to pray for all affected by COVID-19 and breakthrough infections. **We** for those unvaccinated who are most at risk, especially our firefighters, police officers, health care workers. We pray for Heather's brother Mark. and for Dolores. **We** give thanks and offer support for the vaccinated health care providers again overwhelmed.

**We** continue to pray for the cessation of violence, war, and oppression in Yemen, Myanmar, Syria, China, Ethiopia, and South Sudan but especially in Afghanistan. **We** pray for the nation of Haiti and its people enduring poverty, violence, hunger, and lack of security and safety. **We** pray for countries plagued by famines, earthquakes, and hurricanes. **We** pray for refugees everywhere forced to flee from their homes to places unknown, especially those on the Texas/Mexico border and those from Haiti. **We** pray for wildfire control in the western U.S., especially protection of the giant sequoias.

**We** continue healing prayers for Dolores and Fil, for Carminnie, for Gloria, for Van, for Judy G, for Luiza, for Hope, for Neil, for Hannah, for Jared, for Ramon, for our deacon Guy, and for Annie. **We** give thanks for Heather's poignant journey to the Oakland hills to spread her father Mark's ashes. **We** give thanks for Gerti's three-week refreshing and renewing sabbatical through the national parks of the Southwest. **We** give thanks for David's son Alex who acknowledges and praises all that Dad has done and continues to do for him. **We** pray for all in long-term health care facilities. **We** pray for the safety and well-being of children everywhere. **We** offer prayers to Luiza's grandson Anthony as he begins his first year at: UC-SB. **We** celebrate and welcome three new deacons in the L.A. Diocese: John, Daniel, and Kathleen. **We** pray for all those whose faith is challenged.



## Feast Day of St. Francis, October 4

Pope Francis, writing about his namesake, “I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. . . He was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”

Pelagius (c. 354–418), whom Richard Rohr calls an early and frequently misunderstood Celtic Christian theologian, anticipated Francis. “Look at the animals roaming the forest: God’s spirit dwells within them. Look at the birds flying across the sky: God’s spirit dwells within them. Look at the tiny insects crawling in the grass: God’s spirit dwells within them.... Look too at the great trees of the forest; look at the wildflowers and the grass in the fields; look even at your crops. God’s spirit is present within all plants as well. The presence of God’s spirit in all living things is what makes them beautiful; and if we look with God’s eyes, nothing on the earth is ugly.”

## Climate Action

- **Greta Thunberg** tweeted, during the recent Youth4Climate conference in Milan, “We can no longer let the people in power decide what hope is. Hope is not passive. Hope is not **blah, blah, blah**. Hope is telling the truth. Hope is taking action.” The youth conference will send its recommendations to the UN climate conference, COP26, which begins October 31 in Glasgow.
- **Aldo Leopold Foundation**. Readers of Leopold’s classic *A Sand County Almanac* can watch a shorter version of the documentary about Leopold, “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a land ethic for our time.” Register to watch for free: [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org)
- **Pando Populus** is working for environmental sustainability in L.A. [www.pandopopulus.com](http://www.pandopopulus.com). Pando is the name of the fascinating aspen grove in south-central Utah, determined to be a single living organism and assumed to have one massive underground root system.
- **Indigenous Environmental Network**. A joint position paper on the proposed infrastructure plan by IEN, Climate Justice Alliance ( [www.climatejusticealliance.org](http://www.climatejusticealliance.org)) and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance ( [www.ggjalliance.org](http://www.ggjalliance.org)): <https://www.ienearth.org/the-decade-of-false-solutions-our-position-on-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-package-build-back-better-act/>



## “My Name Is Pauli Murray”

... is the title of a new documentary from the same filmmakers who brought us “RBG.” Pauli Murray wore many hats: lawyer, activist, author and educator, AND first black woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest. Murray, who died in 1985 at the age of 75, has been saluted in legal, academic and gender-studies circles, and in the LGBTQ community. Now hailed as a civil rights icon, Murray was dedicated to feminism and the rights of women. RBG cited her work often. She also influenced James Baldwin.

St. A’s Interfaith Book Study group will join the All Saints-Pasadena LGBTQ+ Ministry for a watch party Saturday, 9 October at 3pm, which will be followed by a Zoom discussion at 4:30pm. Watch for link on Friday, October 8, <https://www.facebook.com/LGBTQ-at-All-Saints-278098506258>

# Every Perfect Gift



*Every generous act of giving, with **every perfect gift**, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17*

## **From Father Frank –**

October is traditionally pledge month in the Episcopal Church. The stewardship theme for 2021 comes from the letter of James, which we explored during September. Gifts remind us that gracious love (*hesed* in Hebrew) is at the core of the universe. We need that reminder regularly because the systems of this world are organized around calculated exchanges. Generosity emerges in our spirits when we allow ourselves to be drenched in *hesed*.

The theme's logo for **Every Perfect Gift** is a butterfly and a chrysalis. To the ancient Greeks, the butterfly represented the image of rebirth and freedom. The word they used for butterfly was *psyche*, which also means soul or spirit. The humble and beautiful butterfly contains the philosophical and spiritual idea of the soul breaking free from its shell — free to discover, to inspire, to create, to communicate, to share.

These are also spiritual gifts, which, when we free ourselves to serve in the world, we need and share with others; and they are gifts of our stewardship. As we share our time, talent, and treasure with our church and with the world, we unleash those same gifts in our communities: discovery, inspiration, creativity, communication, sharing. Through the ministries that are enabled by our gifts, the inspiration we show to our neighbors to unlock their generosity in the world, and the stories we tell about ourselves and our experiences, we participate with God in an abundant vision for the world. Every perfect gift comes from God above.

During the month of October, we will be exploring this theme and inviting you to consider your *hesed* pledge to St. Athanasius for 2022.

## **Make a One Minute Video of yourself for Next Sunday's Film Presentation**

*Be part of the Heritage of the Americas film next Sunday by making a brief video. Answer any three of the following questions, and email the video to [AmandaSpanish@hotmail.com](mailto:AmandaSpanish@hotmail.com).*

- What is your name? -Where are you from? -How long have you lived in Los Angeles?
- What is your family like? -Where do you live? -What is a traditional dish from your country?
- What is a good memory you have from your life? -How do you feel in our congregation?
- Is there something you'd like to say about the Americas?
- How do you feel in our congregation?

**Love God. Love Your Neighbor.**  
**Change the World.**  
**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.**

