



November 2 and 9, 2008

# Ecclesia Ministries

Madison Square Park Church

Ecclesia Ministries of New York

## High Church in the Park



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*The Reverend Andrew Blume of St. Ignatius elevating the bread at Eucharist.*

### Upcoming Services...

Sunday, November 16:

Sponsoring congregation: St. Bart's

Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. Clayton Crawley and Deacon J. D. Clarke

Sunday November 23:

Sponsoring congregations: Holy Apostles

Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. John Denaro (St. Mark's)

Sunday November 30:

Sponsoring Congregation: St. Andrew and St. Paul

Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. K. Karpen

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*

*Matt. 5:6*

I never thought I'd see the day when prayers of the Eucharist offered in Latin would be said during communion at Madison Square Park. Our Ecclesia congregation got their share of Anglo-catholic worship on November 2, 2008. Unfortunately, not many were in attendance to worship with us that Sunday. You see, there was a street fair being held on Fifth Avenue just south of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and we came to find out that many of the homeless folks who spend their time in the park were run out of the park by law enforcement. These "sweeps" seem to be occurring more often and seem to be rather arbitrary. Why is one person walking through the park holding a bag OK while a homeless person with a bag is not allowed in the park. As one of our congregants said, a police officer told him that the only people with bags walking through this park are shoppers. Makes you wonder where our priorities lie. As always, I ask your prayers for those less fortunate.

### Welcome!

A special welcome to the Rev. Andrew Blume. We are very thankful for your participation in this ministry and hope to see you again very soon in the park. We love when we have new clergy involved in our ministry.



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*The bread and wine being distributed by Fr. Blume and Joe Dirbas*

## Thank you...

To The Rev. Andrew Blume of St. Ignatius for celebrating Eucharist with us on November 2; and to the congregation of St. Ignatius who supplied our Second Meal.

To The Rev. John Covington of Holy Apostles for celebrating Eucharist on November 9; and to the congregation of Marble Collegiate for the preparation and distribution of the Second Meal.

Both days were a great success and we appreciate the support!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Ecclesia needs your help!

If you can offer assistance with any of the following or simply want to be a part of the Ecclesia Ministry, let us know. We'd love to have you!

1. **Music Leaders** – We are blessed with many wonderful voices but we can always use more!: come help lead our hymns
2. Office angels to help with **accounting**, mailings, and newsletters
3. Discussion leaders for our weekly forums on homeless issues
4. **Writers**, photographers to help us spread the good word about Ecclesia
5. More? – what do you want to do?

### **ECCLESIA NEW YORK WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **SATURDAY**

We also invite you to join us on Saturday afternoons from 3 PM to 4:00 PM to visit with folks in the park, and invite them to Sunday worship. Please join us and become better acquainted with our friends in the park.

#### **SUNDAY**

If you can, please come a half hour early (1:30) on Sunday afternoon, to help us invite people in the park to our 2PM worship service. Many of us also hang around in the park after the service to visit with guests and to offer practical ministry, prayer and care. Without our partners taking the time to get to know our friends in the park through weekly outreach visits, many of our guests would remain faces without names. They might come once, but they wouldn't return.

**Ecclesia Ministries of New York** is a ministry in motion. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and critiques. We especially appreciate the offering of your time, talents and abilities (the gifts of the Church) that will make our park church more significant, relevant and meaningful for everyone involved. This ministry is a work of faith. "The gifts of the Church for all God's people"

Want to know more about how to participate? Call Clyde at 917-617-5945 or email Clyde or Joe at [clyde@ecclesiany.org](mailto:clyde@ecclesiany.org) or [joe@ecclesiany.org](mailto:joe@ecclesiany.org).



Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski

The Rev. John Covington of Holy Apostles with the chalice during services on November 9, 2008

## Presence in the Park

As fall begins to wane and winter is on the horizon, I want to continue the emphasis on the pastoral care part of the Ecclesia mission in Madison Square Park. While a few members of the Ecclesia team visit with homeless in the Park on Saturday afternoons, our pastoral presence requires much more effort.

We've announced and held several community concern meetings which have been very lightly attended but we hope that as they become more regular we may increase attendance. At this point, we are glad to be present and look forward to assisting how we can.

As always, we invite members of the supporting congregations to assist with the pastoral care ministry and we always need volunteers. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Joe or Clyde at [joe@ecclesiany.org](mailto:joe@ecclesiany.org) or [clyde@ecclesiany.org](mailto:clyde@ecclesiany.org), respectively.

Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to assist in ministering to the homeless population.

**Check out our web site: [www.ecclesiany.org](http://www.ecclesiany.org)**

Ecclesia New York is part of a network of street congregations in over 50 cities in the US and around the world. To learn more about the history of the Ecclesia movement, and about Ecclesia ministries in America and in [other countries](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org), go to [ecclesia-ministries.org](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org)