Interfaith studies

The Rev. Gordon H. Mann, rector of All Saints'
Episcopal Church, celebrates Holy Communion
during a service attended by local Jews, Greek
Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestants. Mann,
who is pictured below standing at the altar,
explained to the interfaith congregation that
Episcopalians use the term "holy table"
interchangeably with "altar" because "it still
represents the table of the Lord where the Eucharist
is celebrated, or the Mass or the Lord's Supper."
Mann explained the carved panel behind the altar,

which is known as a reredos, has at its center a carving of the Christus Rex, or Christ the King, rather than the crucified Christ. "In the little niches (of the reredos) are symbols of saints. The reason for that is obvious. This is All Saints' Church." Curtains on either side of the reredos "are changed during the different seasons," said Mann. As examples, purple curtains are used during the Lenten season, and white curtains are used at Easter. (Mobile Press Register photo by Dave Hamby)





Interfaith studies

Youths known as acolytes at All Saints'
Episcopal Church light candles at the beginning
of a service attended by local Jews, Greek
Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestants. The
youths pictured are Wayt Harris, a student at
University Military School, and Kathleen Uzzelle,

a student at St. Paul's Episcopal High School.
"At every celebration of the Eucharist at least
two candles are lighted on the altar. They
remind us of the humanity and divinity of Jesus
Christ and that he is the light of the world.
Other candles can be lighted to add to the

beauty of the Lord's table," according to Nelson M. Snow Jr., a lay leader of All Saints' Church who explained the service to the interfaith congregation. (Mobile Press Register photo by Dave Hamby)

Episcopalians explain Communion

Communicants at All Saints'
Episcopal Church in Mobile kneel
at the altar rail to receive Holy
Communion. The celebrant, or
officiating priest, is the Rev.
Gordon H. Mann, left, rector of
All Saints' Church. Nelson M.
Snow Jr., not pictued, a lay
leader at All Saints' Church,
explained to local Jews, Greek
Orthodox, Roman Catholics and
Protestants who attended the
service that "at the heart of
Christianity is the Eucharist or
Holy Communion ... the taking,
blessing, breaking and giving of
bread and the taking, blessing,
giving of a cup of wine as these
were first done with their new
meaning by Jesus with his
friends on the night that he died.
He told his friends to do this
from then on for recalling the
event...." Mann noted that Greek
Orthodox, Roman Catholics and
Episcopalians all agree on "the
real presence of Christ in the
Eucharist. What we don't agree
upon is just how is he present."
(Mobile Press Register photo by
Dave Hamby)

