

The Gentle Rain of Mercy

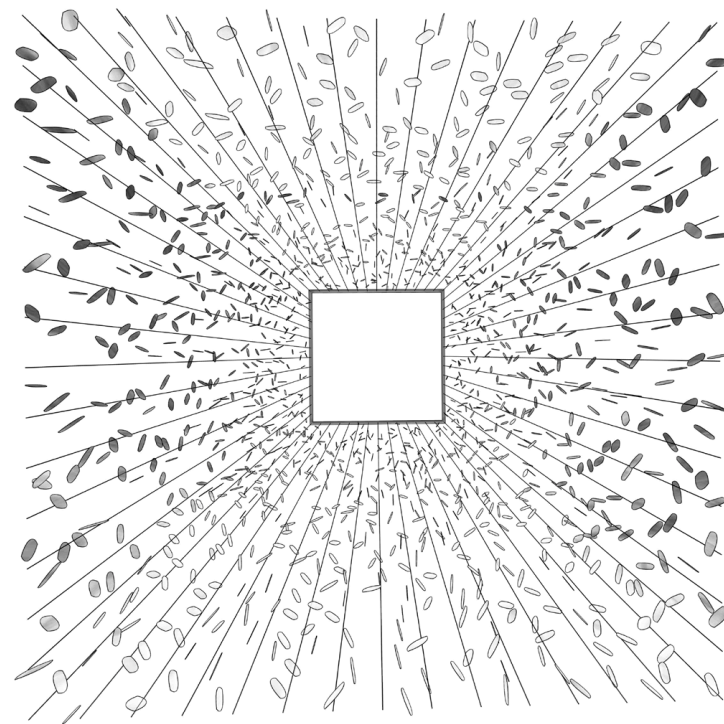
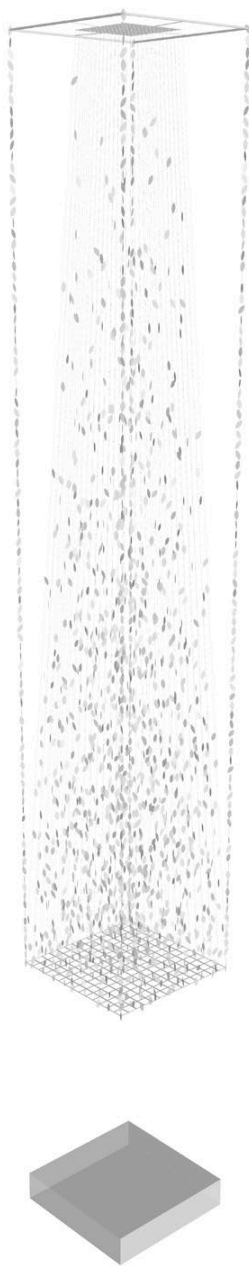
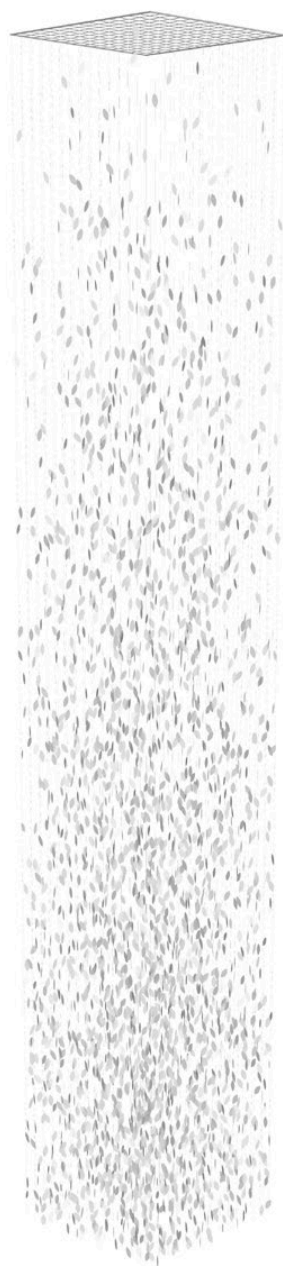
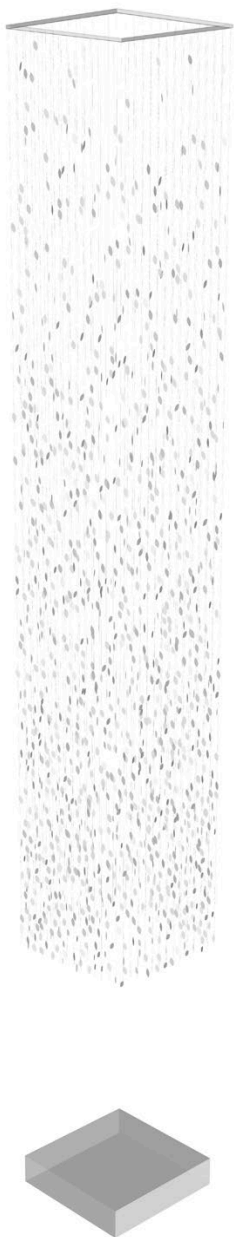
The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings:
But mercy is above this sceptred sway:
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

William Shakespeare
The Merchant of Venice

This Year of Mercy coincides with the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. Portia's speech in the Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare's ode to mercy, frames mercy with gentleness, an attribute of divine power. Mercy appears when it is given and is therefore subtly reciprocal, crediting acts of compassion with blessedness. It is appropriate, therefore, to blend the Beatitudes of Christ, chivaldric images of the cross with the notion of mercy.

Fr. Andrew More O'Connor St Mary Church 2016

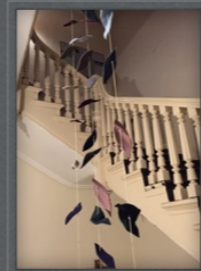
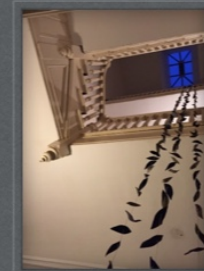




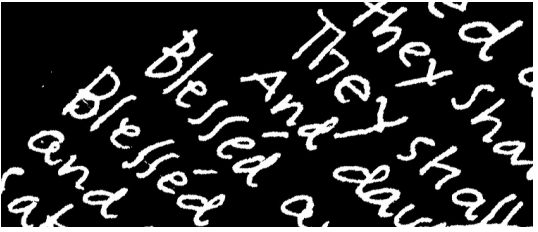
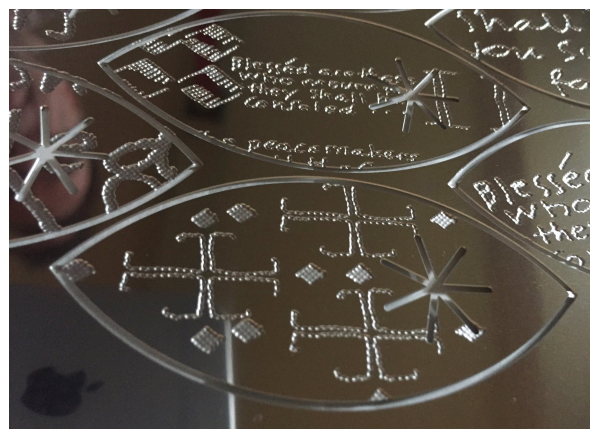
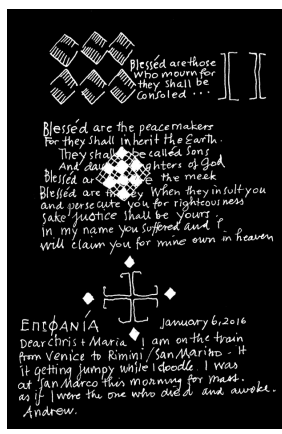
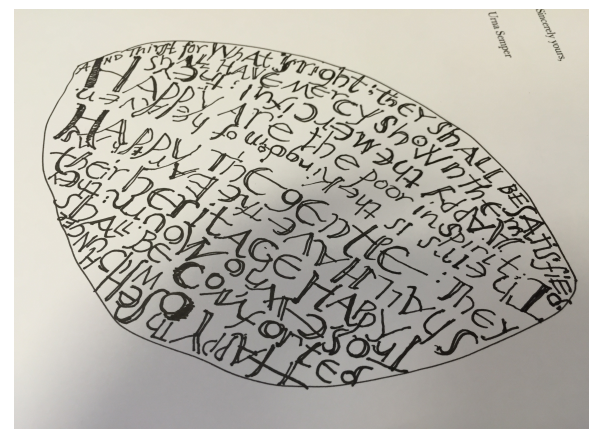
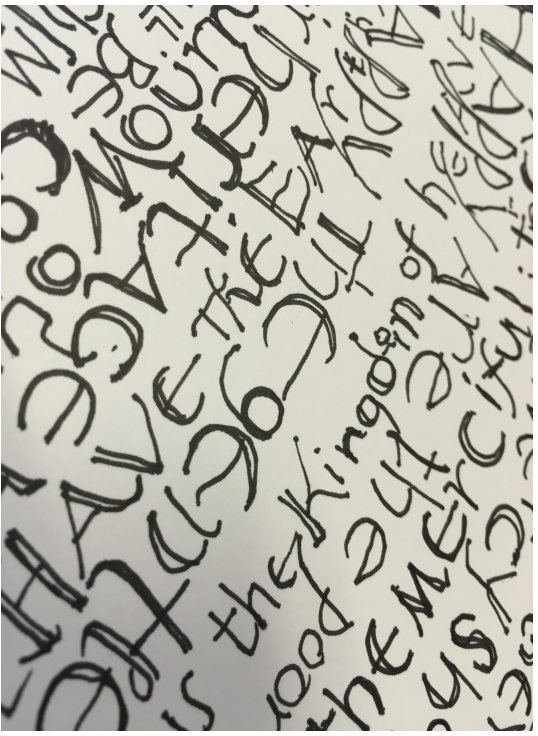
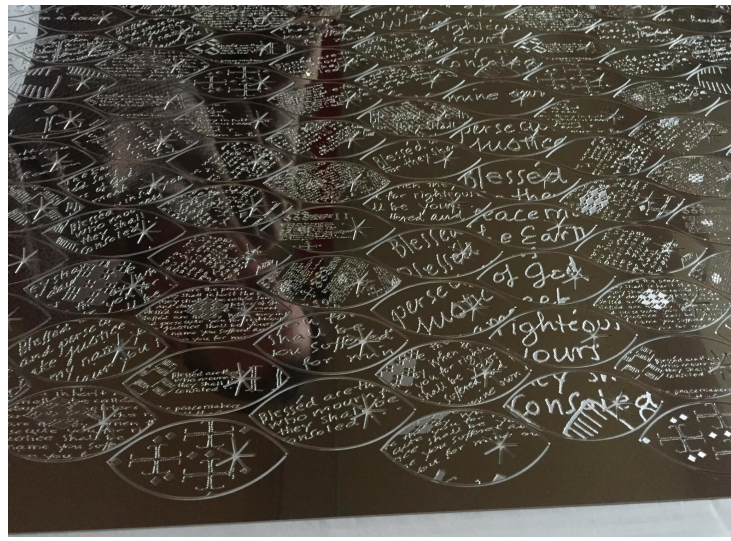


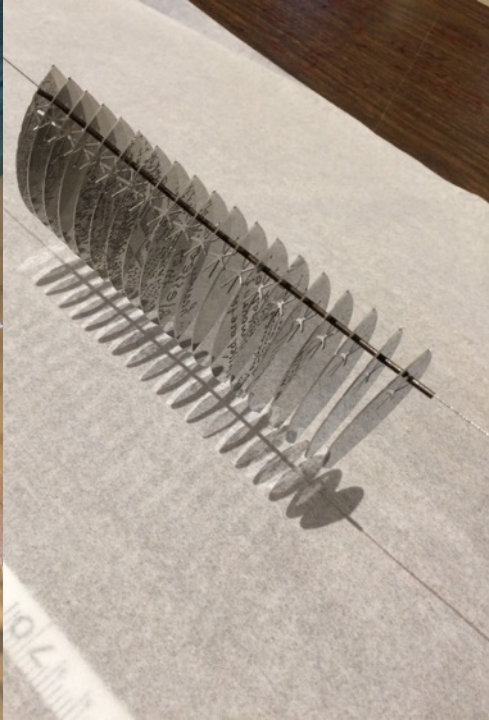


Lenten Art for St. Mary Grand

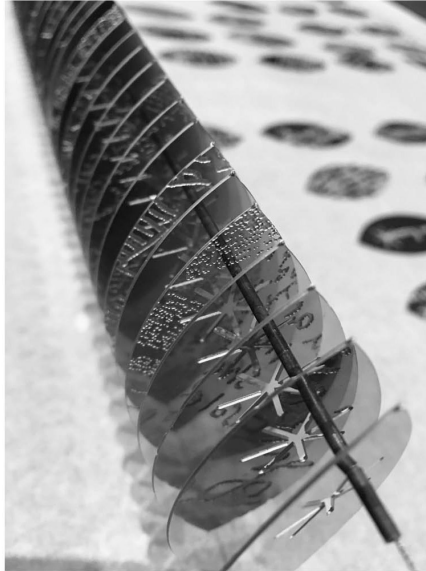


Save me, O God, for the
waters have risen to my
neck. I have into the mud
of the deep and there is
no foothold. I have entered
the waters of the deep
And the wave overwhelm
me. I am wearied with
all my crying.





Falling Leaves 'The Gentle Rain of Mercy..' St Mary Church, New York City. 2016



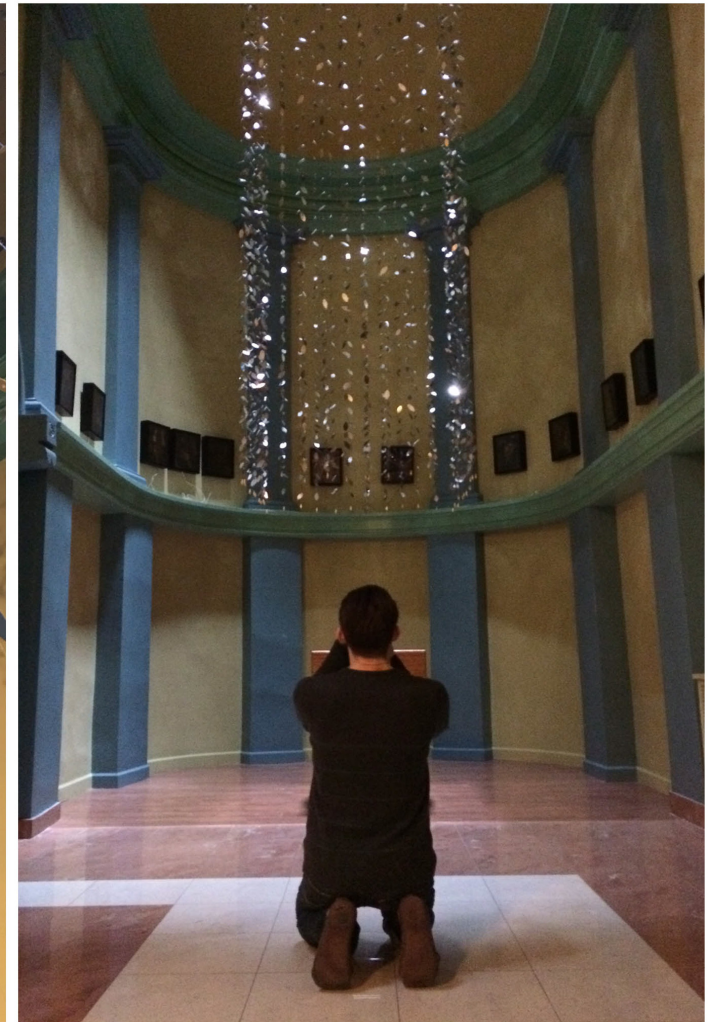
Chris Knight

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