

## **Please Pray For...**

**Parishioners...** Michael, Richard, Tina, Lisa, Charles, Dottie, Bette, Howard, Dorothy, Barbara, Christine, Mike, Jay, Dick, Karla, Charles, Susan, Claudine, Barbara S., Lisa B., Amy, Alex

**Family and friends...** Pepper, Cathy, Christine, Joe, Joey, Dorian, Beth, Jared, Julie, Julius, Yeeleng, Jennie, Kemper, Sharon

**Requiescat in Pace ...** Sonny Bryan and all those killed in acts of terror and war around the world.

**Those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria and all others at risk:** Christopher Corlett, Blair Sokol, Zach Heinrich, and for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war and their caregivers.

**Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation, or studying, including** Lit and Mary Carol Tazewell, Andrew Boyd and Audra Kreger, Virginia Robinson, the Pattarini family, Evan and Kim Cannell, Karen and Eric Coulson, Melissa and Edi Jurkovic, with daughters Elena, Ana, Mia and Olivia.

**Those in assisted living:** Jorge, Joan, Clare, Tom, Fr. Jack, Rose, Kathleen, Audrey, Jim, Dabney, Dorothy, Margaret, Lew, Vi, Muriel, Mary, Alice, Neal, Betty

**The Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. Timothy's, Herndon

**The Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury), Falkland Islands (Parish of) - (Canterbury, Falkland Islands) and **The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton**

**Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: Eleanor Reed**, coordinator of the Lectors, and the volunteers who read the lessons for us.

### **Those with birthdays this week:**

- 13 Isabella Giocomo
- 14 Mike Stancil, Lucy Waskowicz
- 15 Mark Kellogg

*Contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or submit them on the website at:*

*<https://www.gracealex.org/worship/personal-worship/>. Requests will be removed after 4 weeks unless renewed.*

## **Today**

### **Greenery on the Altar**

The greenery on the Altar today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Caroline Joice Beard by her grandparents Debbie Beard and Leslie and Judson Skinker.

### **St. Nicholas Visiting the 9:00 and 11:15 Services**

In honor of his feast day on the 6th and to help us in our Advent preparations, St. Nicholas is visiting the choral services and La Gracia.

### **Adult Forum: Art for Advent II: Expecting the Light of the World**

Our own Anne Boris will present the second of her two-part series on Art for Advent. Anne's presentations are always creative and informative. Come explore examples of Christian art from continents other than Europe.

### **Inquirers' Class: The Two Christmas Stories (Library)**

Join Father Malm as we discuss the Two Christmas stories.

### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

Advent Lessons and Carols will be sung by the Boys and Girls Choir and the Adult Choir TODAY at 5:00 p.m. Music by Elgar, Stopford, Manz, Ord, Wood, and Palestrina. Festive hymns for the season will also be sung. The service concludes with Holy Communion Rite I.

### **#Adventword**

The clergy and staff at Grace are participating in #Adventword, an Advent devotional uniting Christians around the world through pictures and reflections using a different word each day. The Grace Facebook page (search Grace Episcopal Church Alexandria VA) will be posting a reflection each day. Check it out!

## **Confessions in Advent**

During this season of preparation and reflection it is our practice at Grace Church to offer times for individual confession with a priest. Father Malm will be available in the Church at the altar rail on Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. before the daily Eucharist. You may also call and make an appointment. A guide, "How to Make Your Confession," is available in the track rack in the Narthex and on the credenza in the Commons.

## **Christmas Flowers Deadline is December 14**

Did you plan to contribute for the Christmas flowers? The deadline is coming up quickly! All payments and messages are **due on Friday, December 14**. Please fill out the form in this bulletin and enclose a donation of \$50. The forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note 'Christmas Flowers' on the memo line. The Christmastide bulletin goes to print on Monday, December 17.

## **Angel Tree**

There is a lighted Christmas tree located outside the elevator on the 2nd floor. On it are tags that request gifts for needy children and their families. Two of the families were identified by Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services and an additional ten by the La Gracia congregation. The requests are for clothing and toys for the children and gift cards for the families. Please choose a tag or tags and remember to sign the donor list. Bring the wrapped presents (with receipts for the clothing) to a designated box located outside the church office on Sundays or inside the office during the week. The tags must be attached to the presents. All gifts need to be at the church on or before **December 16**.

## **Last Chance at the Photo Sale!**

All those photos you've admired over the year are for sale before and after the 9:00 service today. Some pre-sorting has occurred. There may be an envelope with your name on it! Proceeds go into the parish general fund.

## **Pledging**

Many thanks to more than 160 parishioners and families who have made financial pledges for 2019. We still have more than 70 families and individuals who pledged in 2018 but have not yet pledged for 2019. If you have not yet pledged, please turn in your card or contact the parish office. You can also pledge online at: <https://www.gracealex.org/stewardship/give-your-treasure/make-a-pledge/>

## **Holiday Babysitting**

We have a full house this week for our J2A babysitting event. Parents, please remember to either feed your children or pack a lunch for them to eat upon arrival in Merrow Hall at 12:30 p.m. Drop ins are welcome! Payment for this week will be gift cards from local restaurants or businesses in \$25 increments. We hope our parents enjoy their afternoon!

## **Next Week (December 16-22)**

### **Christmas Pageant**

The Christmas Pageant is next Sunday at 5 p.m. It will be directed by 12th grader Aidan White and will include many of the children and youth of Grace Church. You don't want to miss the festive, fun and fabulous telling of the Christmas story. Following the pageant, everyone is invited to Merrow Hall Auditorium for a pizza dinner and cookie extravaganza!

### **Cookies Needed for the Pageant**

Calling all bakers (and those of us who enjoy making cookies)! Following the pageant on December 16, lots of cookies will be consumed. We need help providing these tasty treats for all in attendance. If you are willing to bake a dozen or two of cookies, please email Jenni at [jenni.faires@gracealex.org](mailto:jenni.faires@gracealex.org). You can deliver your cookies to the kitchen on Sunday morning or up until the time of the pageant.

### **Adult Forum**

Dr. Richard Newman will be our special guest in the Adult Forum. His topic will be Savior of the Nations, Come!: a survey of Baroque organ music for Advent. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from our outstanding Director of Music.

### **Inquirers' Class**

Father Malm will lead a tour of the inside of the Church. Meet him in the Nave at 10:15 a.m.

### **Holiday Babysitting**

Our last babysitting opportunity is upon us! December 16 is the day of the pageant and we will take your children to rehearsal at their scheduled time. The pageant begins at 5:00. No need to arrive before then! Reserve your spot through

the SignUp Genius in the Weekly RoundUp or email Jenni at [jenni.faires@gracealex.org](mailto:jenni.faires@gracealex.org). Children not in the pageant should be picked up by 3:30 p.m.

### **Rosary Group Meeting**

The Rosary group will meet in the library a few minutes after the 11:15 a.m. service and coffee hour. As always, first-time rosary prayers are most welcome, and free rosary beads will be provided. No experience necessary to learn this beautiful meditative prayer.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Christmas Services**

##### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

- 3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for children and families
- 5:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist
- 7:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist
- 10:30 p.m. Choral Prelude
- 11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord

##### **Christmas Day, December 25**

- 12:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist

##### **The Sunday after Christmas, December 30**

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### **From the Housing Ministries**

#### **Volunteers Needed for Hypothermia Shelter**

People without a home need a warm place for the night during winter's coldest months. The Church of St. Clement of Alexandria provides this shelter to the homeless, and Grace Church supports their effort. Our dates of service are Monday, Jan. 21; Monday, Feb. 11; and Monday, Mar. 4. Two volunteers are needed for each of two shifts (7:20 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. & 11:50 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.). Service in this ministry is an easy way to make a difference and SAVE LIVES. Please sign up for our Winter Overflow Shelter ministry on [www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org). For more information, contact Scott Knudsen at [sknudsen@earthlink.net](mailto:sknudsen@earthlink.net) or 571-232-0375.

### **From the Food Ministries**

#### **Thank You Brown Bag Volunteers**

Thank You from the Brown Bag Program to all those who made sandwiches or served lunch in 2018. You helped many in need in Alexandria. The schedule for 2019 has not yet been issued.

#### **Advent Giving!**

We're all familiar with Advent Calendars. Who doesn't like to count DOWN the days until Christmas by opening each day's window to reveal a picture to help us get ready for the birth of Baby Jesus. "Advent in Reverse" works by filling UP a bag with food and/or household items for the Grace Church Food Pantry. We'll even give you a green Food Pantry tote bag to fill! Items that are especially appreciated are:

Non-perishable Foods: Dried beans, rice, cooking oil, tortillas, corn meal and corn flour (Masa), canned meats and fish, canned fruit, cereal, oatmeal, jams and jellies, etc.

Cleaning Supplies: Liquid dish soap, sponges, all-purpose cleaners, laundry supplies, etc.

Toiletries: Shampoo, soap, lotions, toothbrushes and other dental care items, etc. for both adults and children.

Thank you for participating in "Advent in Reverse!" Your contributions help those in need in our Alexandria Community.

#### **Don't Have Time to Shop?**

Financial support is always appreciated and we'll do the shopping for you! Just note FOOD PANTRY on your check memo line. Thank You!

## Calendar for December 9-15

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b>         |
| 7:30 a.m.        | Holy Eucharist                             |
| 9:00 a.m.        | La Gracia (Auditorium)                     |
| 9:00 a.m.        | Holy Baptism and Choral Eucharist          |
| 10:15 a.m.       | Adult Forum (St. John)                     |
|                  | Inquirers' Class (Library)                 |
| 11:15 a.m.       | Holy Baptism and Choral Eucharist          |
| 12:30 p.m.       | J2A Babysitting (Auditorium)               |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Dumont-Machowski Lay Committee (Library)   |
| 5:00 p.m.        | Holy Eucharist                             |
| <b>Monday</b>    |  |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   |  |
| 10:00 a.m.       | Staff Meeting (St. Mark)                   |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)         |
| 4:30 p.m.        | Advanced Choristers                        |
| 5:30 p.m.        | Beginner Choristers                        |
| 5:45 p.m.        | Confession                                 |
| 6:30 p.m.        | Holy Eucharist                             |
| 7:00 p.m.        | Vestry Meeting (Auditorium)                |
| <b>Wednesday</b> |  |
| 7:30 a.m.        | Holy Eucharist                             |
| 5:30 p.m.        | Choristers                                 |
| 7:00 p.m.        | AA (St. Luke)                              |
| 7:00 p.m.        | Mather Lay Committee (Library)             |
| 7:30 p.m.        | Bible Study Group (1823 Café)              |
| 8:00 p.m.        | AA/Alanon (Auditorium and St. Luke)        |
| <b>Thursday</b>  |  |
| 12:15 p.m.       | Holy Eucharist                             |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Christmas Flower Deadline</b>           |
| 9:00 a.m.        | GES Chapel                                 |
| 6:30 p.m.        | Food Pantry (until 7:30)                   |
| 8:30 p.m.        | AA (St. Mark)                              |
| <b>Saturday</b>  |  |
| 9:00 a.m.        | Altar Guild                                |
| 4:00 p.m.        | Casa Chirilagua Holiday Party (Auditorium) |