

Please Pray For...

Parishioners... Michael, Richard, Tina, Lisa, Charles, Dottie, Bette, Howard, Dorothy, Barbara, Mike, 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, Adam, Tod, Alec, Jack

Requiescat in Pace ... Virginia (Ginny) R. Dobbs 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, Jane

The Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle: Immanuel, Old Church; St. Anne's, Scottsville

The Anglican Prayer Cycle: Kivu - (Rwanda) and **The Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana**

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: Khacki Berry, Vestry chair of the **Christian Education Program**, and the volunteers who serve as Christian Formation teachers, coordinators and substitutes; in the nursery and parish library; and lead adult forums and classes.

Those with birthdays this week:

- 17 Mary Fox, Mary Hix
- 18 David Dellefield, Owen Malone, Maria Ribas
- 19 Mac Rein Jr.
- 20 Pat Edelin
- 21 Holly Henderson, Wendy Wilmer
- 22 Priscilla Hanley

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 by Amy Medrick in thanksgiving for the office volunteers and all the work that they do for the parish.

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: Join Father Malm for a tour of the Nave.

Holiday Babysitting

This is our final Sunday of holiday babysitting. Thank you to our J2A youth and their sponsors for providing this service for our parents! The J2A Auction will be here before we know it. Be sure to mark March 2 on your calendar today.

Photo Sale

Thanks to all involved in the photo sale which netted over \$1,400 for the parish general fund.

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who supported the Angel Tree ministry. All gifts can be dropped on the 2nd floor by the elevator or in front of the parish office.

Christmas Pageant

It's Pageant day! Join us this evening at 5:00 pm for the annual Grace Church Christmas Pageant. The pageant 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! If you brought cookies to church, please deliver them to the kitchen. Cookies can be delivered to Merrow Hall Auditorium throughout the day and as you arrive for the pageant.

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.

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.

Pledging

Many thanks to more than 160 parishioners and families who have made financial pledges for 2019. We need everyone's commitment. Our hope is to receive over 220 pledges. 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/>

Next Week (December 23-29)

Adult Forum

Adult Forums will resume **January 13** with a forum presented by Mary Stewart on the detectives of PBS. This should be a fun time for all our PBS detective fans out there! Coffee Hour will continue in Merrow Hall Auditorium following the 9:00 a.m. service and downstairs in the common area following the 11:15 a.m. service during the holiday break with the exception of December 30 when we will be having a 10:00 service.

Schedule Notes

Please see the full schedule for Monday and Tuesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will not be any other celebration on the weekdays following. The next weekday service will be January 1 at 12:00 p.m., January 2 at 7:30 a.m. and January 3 at 12:15 p.m.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for children and families
- 4:30 p.m. Choral Prelude
- 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

Upcoming Events

Feast of Epiphany

On January 6th, we will be celebrating the Feast of Epiphany. Join us at the 9:00 a.m. service for a bilingual celebration followed by a fellowship coffee hour with a visitation from the three kings.

Candlemas and Annual Meeting

On January 27th, we will be holding hold a 10:00 service instead of a 9:00 and 11:15. It will be a celebration of Candlemas and we will follow it with our Annual Meeting.

Stained Glass Windows Update

Following the October forum on our stained glass windows, there has been significant interest in moving forward with the proposed restoration work. The vestry has approved the creation a set-aside fund for the stained glass windows. It will cover 1) restoration work, 2) memorializing all contributions, and 3) performing minor post-restoration maintenance in the years to come, as necessary. More information on contributing to the project will follow after the Christmas holidays.

From the Food Ministries

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!

From the School

Fence Update

Parishioners will notice a new fence that now encloses the rear of our Grace property. With permission from the Church Vestry, this fence was installed at school cost to allay concerns of parents about safety. This fence matches the design of the existing fence on the parking lot side of the property. The school is grateful to the church for its support in protecting the children's play areas.

Calendar for December 16-22

Sunday	The Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m.	La Gracia (Auditorium)
9:00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist
10:15 a.m.	Adult Forum (St. John)
	Inquirers' Class (Nave)
11:15 a.m.	Choral Eucharist
12:30 p.m.	J2A Babysitting (Auditorium)
5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
Monday	
1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)
Tuesday	
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
Wednesday	Ember Day
7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m.	GES Christmas Program
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)
Thursday	St. Thomas (tr)
	GES Winter Break begins
12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
Friday	
9:00 a.m.	GES Chapel
6:30 p.m.	Food Pantry (until 7:30)
8:30 p.m.	AA (St. Mark)
Saturday	
9:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
10:30 a.m.	Greening of the Church Part 1