

## Announcements for December 22, 2019

### Please Pray For...

**Parishioners:** Michael, Richard, Tina, Bette, Susan, Frank, Katherine, Will, Easter, Christine, Linda, Denise, Yolanda, Claudine, Breen, Amanda

**Family and friends:** Pepper, Cathy, Martha, George, Amanda, Kara, Hatch, Andy and Mia, Don, Rt Rev. Carl, Virginia, Michael, Denis, Michael, Arden, Leslie, Sally, Morgan, Matthew, William, Bianca

**Requiescat in Pace:** those killed in acts of terror and war around the world.

**Those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria and all others at risk:** 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, Virginia Robinson, the Pattarini family, Melissa and Edi Jurkovic, with daughters Elena, Ana, Mia and Olivia, Chris Slattery, Christopher and Marjorie Corlett, Eric and Karen Coulson.

**Those in assisted living:** Jorge, Joan, Clare, Tom, Rose, Audrey, Jim, Dabney, Dorothy, Margaret, Vi, Muriel, Mary, Alice, Neal, Betty, Jane, Polly

**The Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** St. James the Less, Ashland

**The Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement; His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; and The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

**Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle:** Molly Sim, coordinator of the Youth Acolytes, and Stephanie Reed, coordinator of the Adult Acolytes, and all the volunteers who serve as acolytes.

### Those with birthdays this week:

- 22 Priscilla Hanley
- 23 Constance Troyer
- 24 Yolanda Oertel
- 26 Eva Lorentz
- 27 Walter Winstead
- 28 Matthew Tschetter

*Contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or submit them on the website at: <http://bit.ly/Grace-Prayer>. Requests will be removed after 4 weeks unless renewed.*

### A Prayer for Our Search Process

Almighty and gracious God, be with us and guide us; open our hearts and minds, and teach us. Fill us with wisdom and an awareness of your vision as we seek a new rector for Grace Church. Grant continued grace and commitment to those who will be called to serve as members of the discernment committee, that they may become faithful companions to each other, to the vestry, and to this parish. Grant us an adventurous spirit, willing to attempt new tasks and embrace new ways, and make us ever mindful of the need to listen to your still, small voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Today**

The greens on the Altar today are given to the glory of God by the Altar Guild in thanksgiving for all of our blessings.

### **Festive Sing-along in Merrow Hall Auditorium**

Dr. Richard Newman will lead us in a festive holiday sing-along, featuring Christmas classics and favorites. Come grab a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and feel the excitement and joy of the season that only music can provide!

### **Christmas Pageant**

Thank you to all who made the pageant such a fun night for the Grace Church community! It takes a village to put on a Christmas pageant, and so many children, youth and adults pitched in to make it a success. A special thank you to Matt and Lucy Tschetter, parents of Martha, our baby Jesus, for standing by with patience and care as we rehearsed and as the pageant progressed!

### **Angel Tree Thank You**

Many, many thanks to all the "angels" who responded so generously to our appeal for Christmas gifts for fourteen needy families here in Alexandria. You made a real difference in the lives of children whose holidays will be all the brighter because of you.

## **Season of Giving Continues**

### **Financial Year Closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>**

All pledges and contributions credited for 2019 must be received by Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. This also holds true for requests for reimbursements. Please contact our Financial Administrator, Beth Calaman, if you have any questions.

### **2020 Pledge Season**

We are still looking to complete our 2020 pledge campaign so we can finalize the budget for next year. We have currently received 160 pledges for a total of \$631,559.92. If you are still prayerfully considering your yearly gift, please return your card to the church office by mail or drop it in the offering plate. You can also pledge online through the [gracealex.org](http://gracealex.org) website.

## **This Week, December 23-28**

### **Office Hours During the Holiday Week**

The Office will be open on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be closed for the remainder of the week.

## **Upcoming Services**

Please see the full schedule for Tuesday and Wednesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please note, there will not be a weekday service on Thursday, December 26.

### **December 24: Christmas Eve**

3:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist for Children and Families
5:00 p.m.	Choral Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord <i>Prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.</i> (Nursery available at 4:45)
7:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord <i>Prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.</i>
11:00 p.m.	Solemn High Mass of the Nativity of our Lord <i>Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.</i>

## **December 25: Christmas Day**

12:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist

## **December 26**

12:15 p.m. No weekday service

## **December 29: The First Sunday after Christmas**

7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. La Gracia Eucharist in Spanish

10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

## **January 1: The Feast of the Holy Name**

12:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist

## **January 5: The Feast of the Epiphany**

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Choral Eucharist

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

On January 5, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. A festive coffee hour will follow the 9:00 a.m. combined La Gracia and Grace bilingual service. The 11:15 coffee hour will be held as usual in the Commons.

## **Parish News**

### **January 12: Adult Forum – Father Michael Guy**

The Adult Forum will resume on January 12, 2020. Father Michael Guy will be our speaker.

### **January 19: Adult Forum – Budget for 2020**

The beginning of the year also means church budget time. Join Mary Stewart in Merrow Hall Auditorium as she presents the 2020 budget. There will be time for questions following the presentation

### **January 26: Service Time Change with Annual Meeting**

On January 26th, we will be holding hold one 10:00 service in lieu of our regular 9:00 and 11:15 services. The Annual Meeting will follow in Merrow Hall.

## **In Our Community**

### **Help keep the Food Pantry well-stocked during the holidays!**

Your contributions are greatly appreciated, especially now. Bonus Shelf items that are very popular with our clients are:

**Foods:** Dried Beans are especially needed (black beans or small red beans). Tortillas, Fruit cups and fruit snacks, Bagged Onions, Potatoes, Apples and Oranges

**Toiletries:** Toothpaste & Toothbrushes (for adults and kids), Shampoo, Shaving items, Bath soap, Deodorant and Toilet Paper

**Cleaning Supplies:** Laundry Detergent, All Purpose Cleaner, Paper Towels, Dish Soap

**Grocery Bags:** The Food Pantry recycles your clean, non-torn grocery bags w/handles (Trader Joe's, Harris Teeter, MoM's & Whole Foods). Please leave at the Food Pantry door.

## Calendar for December 23-28

### **Monday**

1:00 p.m. Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)  
6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (St. Mark)  
7:00 p.m. La Gracia Christmas Holy Eucharist

### **Tuesday**

Church Office closed (No Food Pantry available)  
3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Children and Families  
5:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist of the Nativity of Our Lord (*Nursery available at 4:45*)  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist of the Nativity of Our Lord  
11:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord

### **Wednesday**

Church Office closed  
12:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist  
7:00 p.m. AA District One (St. Mark)  
8:00 p.m. AA/Al-Anon (Auditorium)

### **Thursday**

Church Office Closed  
No 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Friday**

Church Office Closed (No Food Pantry available)  
8:30 p.m. AA (St. Mark)

### **Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Altar Guild