

Announcements for December 8, 2019

Please Pray For...

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

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

Requiescat in Pace: The Rev. Larry Houff and those killed in acts of terror and war around the world.

Those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria and all others at risk: including Chuck DeHoag, 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. Martin's, Richmond; St. Francis Korean, Fairfax; Trinity, Fredericksburg; Santa Maria, Falls Church

The Anglican Prayer Cycle: The work of the Mothers' Union around the world and their Worldwide President - Sheran Harper and Chief Executive - Bev Jullien.

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: Dr. Richard Newman, Director of Music and Francisco Robles, as well as those who volunteer in the Adult Choir, the Boys and Girls Choir, and the Handbell Choir.

Those with birthdays this week:

Dec

8 Valerie Eudy

13 Catherine Giacomo

14 Mike Stancil, Jenni Faires, Lucy Waskowicz

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 search 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 Rick Eudy in celebration of Valerie Eudy's birthday.

St. Nicholas is Here!

Today, we welcome St. Nicholas to our 9:00 & 11:15 Choral Eucharists! Children will be invited to the front of the church during his visit and then will walk with him into the Malm Narthex to receive a special candy treat. Be sure to stay and see the special St. Nicholas display set up by Lucy Lee Reed.

As part of our St. Nicholas celebration, La Gracia has prepared a special Coffee Hour food selection to share during the 9:00 Coffee Hour. Come enjoy delicious food prior to the Adult Forum.

Adult Forum - Merrow Hall Auditorium

The Diocesan Convention was held November 14-16 in Arlington, VA. Diocesan Convention representatives Mike Jones, Jean Reed, Jason Roberson, and the youth representative, Julie Cizek, will offer a summary of the important resolutions from the convention.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Advent Lessons and Carols will be sung by the Boys and Girls Choir and the Adult Choir tonight at 5:00 p.m. with music from *The Southern Harmony* and Handel's beloved masterpiece *Messiah*. Festive hymns for the season will also be sung. The service concludes with Holy Eucharist.

Reception Honoring Father Michael Guy

Following Advent Lessons and Carols, we invite you to a reception in Merrow Auditorium honoring our new interim rector, Father Michael Guy.

Pledge Season Continues!

Have you turned in your pledge for the 2020 year? You can put it in the offering or drop it by the office during the work week. We are counting on each of you to return pledges in a timely manner so that we can begin preparing for the 2020 budget. A big thank you to all the individuals and families who have already made their pledge for 2020. We have currently received 152 pledges for a total of \$598,299.92. If you are still prayerfully considering your yearly gift, you may return your card to the church office by mail or drop it in the offering plate in the coming weeks. Online pledge forms are also available through the gracealex.org website.

Annual Photo Sale

Today is the last Sunday of Photo Sale. Browse and buy. Pictures currently on the wall are also for sale. All proceeds go to parish general fund.

First Sunday with the Angel Tree

Beginning today, there will be a Christmas tree on the second floor with gift requests from some of the La Gracia families. Please sign up for one or more of the cards. Return the wrapped presents (with the tag attached) by December 19.

This Week, December 9-14

Brown Bag Lunch Request

Sandwiches are still needed for next week: December 9-13. If you are able to provide 10 or 20 sandwiches to be placed in the Merrow Hall freezer by Sunday, please email Linda.Waskowicz@gracealex.org or sign up on the Outreach bulletin board. Instructions can be found on the bulletin board by the main office or can be emailed to you. Our next responsibility for this worthy outreach is January 27-31.

Next Sunday, December 15

Adult Forum - St. John Room

Senior Warden, Chris Kupczyk, and Junior Warden, Anne Caputo, will update the parish on the formation of the Search Committee as part of the rector search.

Christmas Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant will be presented at 5:00 pm on December 15 by our children and youth. If the spirit of the season hasn't hit you yet, this pageant will do the trick! Following the pageant, there will be a pizza and cookie reception in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

So far we have one volunteer to bring cookies. If you are able to bring cookies, please email Jenni Faires at Jenni.Faires@gracealex.org. Cookies can be dropped at Merrow Hall Auditorium prior to any of the Sunday services.

Parish News

Confession during Advent

Did you know that *The Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church contains the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (pp. 446-452)? Also known as the Rite of Confession, it is not restricted to times of sickness, and it is available for all who desire it. As we say in the Anglican tradition, "All may, some should, none must." During this season of Advent, Fr. Michael and Fr. Jason are available to hear confessions by appointment. Please email them at Michael.Guy@gracealex.org or Jason.Roberson@gracealex.org or call the church office at 703-549-1980 to make an appointment.

Thank You from the Holiday Bazaar!

We want to thank all the volunteers and those of you who came to the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday. The proceeds from the sale of tables, the raffle items, and the sale of donated items all went to support the Food Pantry. We also received several donations of non-perishable food items.

Directory

The online directory through Breeze provides you with the most current information we have for parishioners. If you would like a hard copy of the directory, copies are available on the credenza in the Commons. We've done a small print run. If you would like a copy and do not see one there, please contact the parish office and we will make sure that you get one.

Christmas Flowers

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decorations. If you wish to contribute to the Christmas decoration fund, please fill out the form and enclose a donation of \$50 or visit www.gracealex.org and complete the online Flower Donation form if you'd prefer to pay online. Thanksgivings and memorials will be printed in a special bulletin on Christmas Eve,

Have you completed your pledged giving for your 2019 contribution?

Worship, outreach, and ministry programs are all budgeted for the whole year relying on parishioners to fulfill their annual pledge amounts, and we have been careful with our expenses. While additional giving to special funds or occasions is always appreciated, your annual pledge is the critical financial structure supporting our mission. If you have questions about your year-to-date totals, please call the church office. Then please complete your 2019 pledge now to make sure we finish this year on budget.

In Our Community

Helping Others Without Leaving Home!

The Card Ministry reaches out to members of our community who have cause for celebration, for concern, reasons to mourn, and those with reason to rejoice. A piece of mail can lift someone's spirit. We need card writers for those everyday events – births and baptisms, weddings and anniversaries, illnesses and condolences. Cards are provided and can be mailed from the church at Grace's expense (though using one's own cards and stamps is an option). If this might interest you, or if you have any questions, contact John Boris at 703-941-3222 or borisjj@hotmail.com.

Hungry during the Holidays

While over 90 Thanksgiving Baskets were given out, the work of the food pantry isn't done. Clients need our help all the time, not just at the holidays.

Food items: Dried Beans, Tortillas, Jam or Jelly, Fruit Snacks, Bagged Onions, Potatoes, Apples and Oranges

Toiletries: Soap, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Feminine *Hygiene* Products

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

Grocery Bags: The Food Pantry always needs clean, non-torn, grocery bags w/handles (Trader Joe's, Harris Teeter, MoM's & Whole Foods).

Calendar for December 8-14

Sunday	The Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (Nave)
9:00 a.m.	Santa Eucaristía (Auditorium)
11:15 a.m.	Choral Eucharist
5:00 p.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols followed by Reception for the Rev. Michael B. Guy
Monday	Brown Bag Lunch Week (Monday-Friday)
1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)
6:30 p.m.	Education for Ministry (St. Mark)
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 Treble Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.	Novice Treble Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (Auditorium)
Wednesday	
7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
5:30 p.m.	Combined Treble Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	AA District One (St. Mark)
7:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Bible Study (Library)
8:00 p.m.	AA/Al-Anon (Auditorium)
Thursday	
12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
7:30 p.m.	11:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Friday	
9:00 a.m.	GES Eucharist
8:30 p.m.	AA (St. Mark)
Saturday	
9:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
4:00 p.m.	Casa Chirilagua Event (Auditorium)