

Announcements for December 15, 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

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: Christ Church, Gordonsville; St. Barnabas, Annandale, Creator, Mechanicsville

The Anglican Prayer Cycle: Sokoto (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Augustin Omole El Salvador (Central America) and The Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: Kelly Gable, Vestry Chair of the Youth Program, and those who lead and participate in our Rite-13, J2A, and EYC groups

Those with birthdays this week:

- 15 Greg Whitlow, Mark Kellogg
- 17 Mary Fox, Mary Hix, Christina Ritter
- 18 David Dellefield, Maria Ribas
- 19 Mac Rein, Jr.
- 20 Pat Edelin
- 21 Wendy Wilmer

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.

Vestry Selects Discernment Committee to Search for Next Rector

The vestry is thrilled to announce the selection of the discernment committee that will undertake the search process for the next rector of Grace Church. We conducted an off-site selection meeting on November 23 and began contacting candidates to confirm their interest in serving. The committee will consist of nine parishioners: two co-chairs and seven members.

The vestry is profoundly grateful to all who expressed interest in serving on the discernment committee. Arriving at a total of only nine individuals was very challenging, given that we are blessed with so many who

have served our parish so well and so faithfully. We give thanks to God as we embark on the next phase of this transition period.

We will formally commission the discernment committee today at the end of the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist. We then invite you to attend the 10:15 a.m. forum, where the wardens will facilitate a discussion on next steps.

Today

The greens on the Altar today are given to the glory of God by Amy Medrick in thanksgiving for all the office volunteers and the work they do.

Adult Forum - Merrow Hall Auditorium

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. The wardens will introduce search committee members and questions will be taken on the timeline and role of the committee.

Christmas Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant will be presented at 5:00 p.m. today by the children and youth of Grace Church! 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.

If you are bringing a plate of cookies to share during the reception, please drop them in Merrow Hall prior to the beginning of the pageant so that the tables may be set and ready following the program.

Last Chance for the Christmas Flowers! Get your donation in today!

The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decorations. If you wish to contribute to the Christmas flower fund, please complete the form on the back of the bulletin and return it with a donation of \$50. You may also 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.

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 160 pledges for a total of \$631,559.92. 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.

Have you picked up a tag or two from the Angel Tree?

The Angel Tree is 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 16-21

Saturday, December 21: The Greening of the Church

The annual Greening of Grace Church will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 21. All are welcome to participate! If you are planning on coming, please email Eleanor.Reed@gracealex.org. Feel free to bring a snack to share. (Young children who come should bring a book or toy to occupy them in case they tire of the greening activity!)

Next Sunday, December 22

Adult Forum - 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!

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.

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.

Advent and Christmas Services at Grace

December 22: Advent 4

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

Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m.

La Gracia Eucharist in Spanish

9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Choral Eucharist

December 23

7:00 p.m.

La Gracia Christmas Holy Eucharist

December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist for Children and Families

5:00 p.m.

Festival Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord
Prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Festival Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord
Prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Solemn High Mass of the Nativity of our Lord
Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day

12:00 p.m.

Festival Eucharist

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

In Our Community

From the Food Pantry: Thank You to all who organized and participated in last Saturday's Holiday Bazaar for the benefit of the Grace Food Pantry! Your contributions helped stock the pantry Bonus Shelves with items that are very popular with our clients such as:

Food items: Dried Beans (black beans or small red beans), Tortillas, Jam or Jelly, Fruit Snacks, Bagged Onions, Potatoes, Apples and Oranges

Toiletries: Bath Soap, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Toilet Paper

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

Grocery bags: The Food Pantry can always use your clean, non-torn grocery bags w/handles (Trader Joe's, Harris Teeter, MoM's & Whole Foods). Leave @ Food Pantry door.

Help Refugee Families from Afghanistan

Christ Church Alexandria & West End Lazarus is organizing a Toiletries & Cleaning Supply Drive for Refugee Families from Afghanistan. Items needed:

Full-size (no travel-size please) toiletries – shampoo/conditioner; liquid bath soap; toothbrushes/toothpaste; deodorant; lotions, and razors/shaving cream.

Cleaning supplies – dish soap/sponges; laundry detergent; all-purpose cleaners; Windex; cleaning cloths, and toilet paper.

Please label items **Refugee Supplies** and drop them off at the Food Pantry. If you'd like to contribute funds for this effort, we'll do the shopping. Just note Food Pantry/Refugee Supplies on your check. Thank you!

Calendar for December 15-21

Sunday

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
12:30 p.m. Rosary (Lady Altar)
12:30 p.m. Dumont-Machowski Committee Meeting (Library)
5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant

Monday

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

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
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. 11:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday

9:00 a.m. GES Christmas Program (Auditorium)
8:30 p.m. AA (St. Mark)

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Altar Guild
10:30 a.m. Greening of the Church
4:00 p.m. Tenants & Workers United Event