

Announcements for February 23, 2020

Please Pray For...

Parishioners: Michael, Richard, Easter, Tina, Frank, Linda, Yolanda, Virginia, Sandra, Betty, Fred, Phil, Jean

Family and friends: Pepper, Cathy, Martha, Margie, George, Scott, Don, Nan, Rachel, Anna, Sam, Morgan

Requiescat in Pace: all those killed in acts of terror, violence, and war around the world.

Those affected by: the war in Yemen; natural disasters in Puerto Rico and Australia; and those suffering from Coronavirus 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, Nikolai Karamyshev, Elizabeth Imphong

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

Those travelling: Brad Bergmann and June Huber, Nick and Kelsey Robinson

The Anglican Prayer Cycle: The Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America and The Right Revd Julio Murray Thompson, Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Panama

The Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle: St. Paul's, Richmond

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: The Sexton and the school's Facilities Management team who take care of our building: Pedro Hernandez, Ben Strohl, Alberto and Rosa Contreras, Orlando Lemus and Amorita Quintanilla

Those with birthdays this week:

23 Claudine Donovan, Lauren Gustafson, Evan Robinson, Nancy Robinson, Raphael Sanchez

24 Connor Murphy, Renee Rutkowski

25 Graham Borgia

26 Jay Burgess, Joe Washington

28 Willem Egaas

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 are 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 flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Evan and Nancy Robinson in thanksgiving for their many blessings, their family and this very special parish on their birthday and by Joe Donovan in celebration of Claudine Donovan's birthday today.

Adult Forum – Rector Discernment Committee Listening Sessions (Auditorium)

The Grace Rector Discernment Committee invites you to participate in the process of reflection and self-discovery that will inform our collective effort to call a new rector. One of the ways you can do so is by attending today's "Listening Session," wherein members of the Discernment Committee will meet with small groups of parishioners to gather their feedback.

The first Listening Session will take place today during the Forum Hour following the conclusion of the 9 a.m. service. Those gathering for this session will initially meet in the Merrow Hall Auditorium before disbanding into smaller groups.

The second Listening Session will take place Tuesday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m., following the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Childcare will be available if necessary. Please email Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org if childcare is needed.

Parish News

As Lent Begins

Take a look around the stores you frequent for those BOGO Offers (Buy One Get One). Now think KOGO (Keep One Give One)! Giving up those free items will help the tight budgets of our Alexandria families in need. Everything from Soup to Soap, Tuna to Toothbrushes, Windex to [Baby] Wipes are given to our Food Pantry clients. Can't shop? Gift Cards to local groceries and drugstores can help. The Food Pantry will shop for you! Drop off validated Gift Cards @ the Church office. The Food Pantry cheerfully accepts non-perishable foods, toiletries, cleaning supplies and financial contributions (note "Food Pantry" on check memo line or electronic contribution). Thank You for your generosity!

Please Support the Altar Fund

Did you know the Altar Guild is not funded with your pledge? We rely on monthly donations from parishioners. Donations to the Altar Guild fund the wafers and wine at each service, our candles, linens, and vestments. Please consider donating \$5 a month, or \$60 per year. To do so, you can use the pink envelopes among your pre-printed offering envelopes (please write "Altar Guild" in the memo line of checks), or you can use the Tithely app to make one-time or recurring donations (select "Altar Guild" in the "Give To" field).

Grace Notes looking for new editor and layout help

The Communications team is seeking a replacement for our long-time editor. The time commitment is between 4 – 6 hours a month, which occurs in the third week of the month to meet the production schedule. The editor compiles the articles that are submitted and edits them to comply with the style sheet. It would be helpful if the editor could assist in the layout, trading off that duty with the other members of the team. If interested, please contact kristine.hesse@gracealex.org.

New Photo Wall

Enjoy the new photos on the picture wall which portray parish activities leading up to and including Christmas and beyond. Thanks to the many contributors, most especially Heather Wishart-Smith and Nancy Robinson.

In Our Community

Volunteers Still Needed for Hypothermia Shelter!

People without a home need a warm place for the coldest nights in winter. The Church of St. Clement of Alexandria provides shelter to the homeless, and Grace Church supports their effort. Our remaining date of service is Monday, March 2. Volunteers are still urgently needed for the overnight shift (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 on SignupGenius via the gracealex.org website. For more information, contact Scott Knudsen at sknudsen@earthlink.net or 571-232-0375.

Upcoming Calendar Events

This Week, February 24-29

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Come and join us for the traditional pre-Lenten dinner on Tuesday, February 25 from 6:00 -7:30 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. Rite 13 and J2A youth will be cooking and serving your dinner. Proceeds go to the J2A Pilgrimage in summer 2021. A large stack of pancakes is \$8; a small stack is \$5.

Please note that the Grace Rector Discernment Committee will hold a Listening Session following the dinner at 7:30 pm.

Ash Wednesday Service Schedule

Please see the schedule included below for Ash Wednesday service times on February 26th. All services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, except for Holy Eucharist at Grace School Chapel.

Ash Wednesday Service Times

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. GES Holy Eucharist
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:00 p.m. Family Service
7:30 p.m. Bilingual Choral Eucharist

Ash Wednesday Family Service

We invite families with children of all ages to join us for the Family Service at 6:00 pm on Ash Wednesday. The service will include a simple liturgy, homily, the Imposition of Ashes, Holy Eucharist and the symbolic planting of a seed to symbolize the transformation of our hearts during the Lenten season.

Additional Daily Services Begin on Friday, February 28

The Stations of the Cross followed by the Holy Eucharist will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Fridays. An additional Holy Eucharist will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Confession During Lent

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 Lent, Fr. Michael and Fr. Jason are available to hear confessions by appointment. Please email them at michael.guy@gracealex.org or jason.roberston@gracealex.org, or call the church office at 703-549-1980 to make an appointment.

United Thank Offerings

The Episcopal Church is starting its third year of providing a special UTO Lenten Devotional Calendar, which introduces you to the recipients of the 2019 UTO Grants and 2019 Young Adult and Seminarian Grants, and also reminds us of our blessings. To learn more about the United Thank Offering, please visit episcopalchurch.org/uto. The calendars and UTO mite boxes are located outside the front office.

Next week, March 1-7

Ordination to the Diaconate, Saturday March 7

Our seminarian, Matthew Dumont-Machowski, will be ordained as a transitional deacon at 10:30 a.m. at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, VA. Please join us in celebrating with Matthew and his husband Bryan at this joyous occasion! Matthew will also serve as deacon for his first time at Grace on Sunday morning, March 8th. Congratulations to Matthew, and thanks be to God!

Inquirers' Class

Inquirers' class begins during the Forum hour for five Sundays in Lent. We will be using Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe's book, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, as a teaching tool for new members and a refresher course for anyone interested in attending. Books are available for purchase for \$17 this week during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hours or through Jenni or Jason during the week.

If you are interested in Baptism, Confirmation or Re-affirmation during the Easter Vigil, please contact Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org.

Monday Night Lenten Series

This year our series, Praying Through Lent, features retired clergy, the Goodwin House Chaplain and our very own, Jason Roberson. Join us each Monday night for Holy Eucharist, a Simple Supper provided by a ministry team, and the featured speaker as we look to enhance our spiritual journey during the Lenten season.

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 7:10 p.m. Simple Supper 7:45 p.m. Featured Speaker

3/2 Simple Supper - Vestry & Discernment Committee

Speaker - Rt. Rev. Robert Moody

3/9 Simple Supper - Altar Guild

Speaker - Rev. Francis Wade

3/16 Simple Supper - Outreach

Speaker - Rev. Jonathan Bryan

3/23 Simple Supper - Choir

Speaker - Rev. Bruce Stewart

3/30 Simple Supper - LEMS

Speaker - Rev. Jason Roberson

Future Events

Brown Bag Alert: March 9 – 13

Looking for servers (two per day) and sandwich makers for our next scheduled week at Meade Memorial in Old Town. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Outreach bulletin board near the church office or you can email linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org if you are able to serve in either way. Instructions for both are also on the bulletin board. Grace is not scheduled again until mid-May.

Shrine Mont Volunteer Work Weekend, April 3 – 5

Spend a FREE weekend (home cooked meals and lodging provided) to help prepare Shrine Mont to open for the 2020 season. All skills needed... from raking, mulching, and painting to carpentry projects. Must be at least 16 years old. For more information and to register please go to the Shrine Mont website or call Tom von Hemert, Volunteer Coordinator (434) 987-6699.

LGBTQ+ Shrine Mont Retreat

As children of God, we are all made in God's image and possess unique gifts that benefit the entire Body of Christ in the world. Come and share your whole self with God and the Church without pretenses: start new friendships with people across our Diocese, deepen existing relationships, be at peace in the presence of God and you fellow siblings. The theme is "Bringing Our Whole Selves: Exploring the Vital Gifts the Queer Community Offers to the Church." Our keynote speaker is the Rev. Elizabeth Edman, Episcopal priest and author of *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity*. For more information, go to <http://www.thediocese.net/events/2020/08/21/bringing-our-whole-selves-exploring-the-vital-gifts-the-queer-community-offers/>.

The retreat will be August 21-23, 2020. Registration is open now and ends on May 10, 2020. Space is limited! For questions about the retreat and scholarships, please email lgbtqministrydiova@gmail.com.

Calendar for February 24-29

Monday

1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open (until 3:00)
6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (St. Mark)
7:00 p.m. GES School Board (St. Luke)

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open (until 3:00)
4:30 p.m. Advanced Treble Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Novice Treble Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting (St. Mark)
7:30 p.m. 11:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. GES Holy Eucharist
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:00 p.m. Family Service
7:30 p.m. Bilingual Choral Eucharist
8:00 p.m. AA/Al-Anon (Auditorium)

Ash Wednesday

Thursday

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Friday

12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross
6:30 p.m. Food Pantry Open (until 7:30)
8:30 p.m. AA (Auditorium)

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Altar Guild