



Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day, December 25th, 2023 – 12:00 pm
Holy Eucharist, Rite I



WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS DAY AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are excited that you have chosen to worship with us today as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite you to return in the coming weeks to worship during Christmastide and Epiphany. See the schedule inside the back cover of this bulletin to see our upcoming services.

If you would like to support the ministries of Grace Church, there are a couple of ways to make a Christmas Eve offering:

- Place cash or check in the offering bag as it is passed through the pews during the anthem.
- Make a one-time donation through the website, www.gracealex.org.

If you are looking for a church home, we welcome you. Please leave a visitor card in the offering plate or send an email to welcome@gracealex.org

WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at welcome@gracealex.org, so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing. Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Our Mission Statement

To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

Through + life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others

Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our regular office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 3 pm and Fridays 9 am – 12 noon.

(Mother Emma is out of the office on Mondays and Father Santi is out of the office on Fridays.)

Staff

Noah Aukerman

Seminarian

naukerman@vts.edu

Betsy Bamford

Nursery Worker (part-time)

The Rev. Deacon Emma Brice

Assistant Rector & School Chaplain

emma.brice@gracealex.org

Patti Culbreth

Head of Grace Episcopal School

pculbreth@graceschoolalex.org

Mary Cyrus

Financial Administrator (part-time)

financial.admin@gracealex.org

The Rev. Deacon Ignacio Solano Gómez

Seminarian

isolanogomez@vts.edu

Kevin Hamilton

Director of Operations and Communication

director.of.operations@gracealex.org

Pedro Hernández

Sexton

Durango Jenkins

Seminarian

djenkins@vts.edu

Madeline Manaker

Operations & Finance Assistant (part-time)

madeline.manaker@gracealex.org

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Montgomery

Priest Locum Tenens

jenny.montgomery@gracealex.org

Amorita Quintanilla

Sexton (part-time)

The Rev. Santiago “Santi” Rodriguez

Associate Rector

santiago.rodriguez@gracealex.org

Dr. John Chappell Stowe

Interim Director of Music

john.stowe@gracealex.org

IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (703) 261-9079**, and the priest on call will assist you.

HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

OPENING HYMN 83

O come all ye faithful

Adeste Fideles

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 323

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 323

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

BCP, p. 324

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

PSALM

Psalm 98

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

**2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-12

Lector A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

Father Santi Rodriguez

Silence is kept.

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form I; BCP, p. 383

The Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Alexandria, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Celebrant

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 332

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY *If you prefer to give electronically, you can scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit the giving page at www.gracealex.org and click on "Make an Offering."*



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, p. 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son,

to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 336

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP, p. 337

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 338

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist.

Please come forward to the altar rail at the direction of the ushers.

A full communion is made with the bread alone, but if you choose to receive the wine, you may either drink from the cup, or you may offer your wafer to the person holding the chalice, who will dip the bread in the wine for you.

If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest.

Those who wish to have the eucharist brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 105

God rest you merry, gentlemen

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 339

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher

Father Santi Rodriguez

Lector & Intercessor

Mary Hix

Ushers

John Boris, Mary Hix

Altar Guild Crew Leaders

Sarah Schultz, Kristine Hesse, Lucy-Lee Reed, Chad Eckles

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD – 8:45 a.m. Santa Eucharistia,
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols Sing-along, Rite I**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY- 7 p.m. Bilingual Festival Eucharist

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

The flowers decorating the church are given to the Glory of God by the following:

Brad Bergmann and June Huber	<i>In loving memory of our parents, Walter Bradley Bergmann, Janelee Goepper Bergmann, John Matthew Huber and Valerie Augusta Huber</i>
John J. & Anne Clift Boris	<i>In loving memory of Jill Boris Zadar</i>
Lisa Cassidy	<i>In loving memory of my mother Anna and my brother Bobby</i>
Ruth Corlett	<i>In loving memory of Cleve Corlett and our life together</i>
Chrissie Crosby	<i>In thanksgiving for our Grace family and all of its clergy and staff</i>
Bill & Wendy Cummings	<i>In loving memory of Tom, Peg, Tom, Marge, Ferris, Midge, and George</i>
Walter & Joanne Davis	<i>In loving memory of all our loved ones gone before, especially Rick Eudy</i>
Lisa Doelp	<i>In thanksgiving for all of Grace Church</i>
Claudine & Joe Donovan	<i>In thanksgiving for our families, Pauly and Meeks Family</i>
Valerie Eudy, Claire, & Martin	<i>In loving memory of Rick Eudy</i>
Kevin Hamilton	<i>In thanksgiving for the amazing office volunteers, my incredible coworkers, and for the tremendous leadership of Bill Malone, Senior Warden</i>
Kristine Hesse & Greg Whitlow	<i>In thanksgiving for all our blessings</i>
Barry & Janeclare Joyner	<i>In thanksgiving for family and friends</i>
Jeanie Kaufman	<i>In memory of my husband, Joseph H. Kaufman, M.D.</i>
Jeanie Kaufman	<i>In thanksgiving for Grace Episcopal Church; clergy and friends – I will always have wonderful memories</i>
Richard & Cindy Kelly	<i>In thanksgiving for our wonderful family and friends</i>
Ann Korky	<i>In loving memory of Theodore and Agnes Korky</i>
Bill Malone	<i>In loving memory of John Malone</i>
Betty Mills	<i>In loving memory of in loving memory of my mother, Martha McKecknie Mills</i>
Suzanne & Jay O'Malley	<i>In thanksgiving for the blessings and joys of friends and family, especially daughters Meghan and Kerrigan and their families</i>
Cynthia & Cathy Puskar	<i>In thanksgiving for our many blessings and in loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Mary and Lewis Fulwiler and Chuck Puskar, and our beloved Bill Stokes</i>
Jean & Lucy-Lee Reed	<i>In loving memory of Rodney Pendleton Reed</i>
Jean & Lucy-Lee Reed	<i>In thanksgiving for Christopher, Eleanor, Melissa, and Michael</i>
Lynn Rohrs	<i>In thanksgiving for my children, grandchildren, extended family, and Grace family</i>
Sarah Schultz	<i>In thanksgiving for the Grace Church Altar Guild. "We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the journey with us—let us make haste to be kind and be swift to love."</i>
Larry Thompson	<i>In thanksgiving for my Grandsons</i>
Elly Vogtmann	<i>In loving memory of my parents, Stella & Bill, and in thanksgiving for cousins, Elaine & Keith</i>
Matt & Tacie Williams	<i>In thanksgiving for our wonderful clergy and staff</i>
Wishart, Smith, & Shriner Family	<i>In thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior and the love of our family and Grace community</i>
Jan & Otto Wolff	<i>In thanksgiving for our blessings; especially our family and Grace Church</i>
Lorna Worley	<i>In thanksgiving for Ken Stone, Tia and Jim Gray, Whitney, Ever and Ava Canizalez, Michael & Amina Gray</i>

The Advent wreath and candles are given in loving memory of Audrey T. Adlis and Charles S. Adlis and Marion L. Iovino and Peter A. Iovino, Sr. by Peter, Charlie and Christina Iovino.

Hanging votive candles for the coming year are given by the Legere family in memory of Dick and Vi Legere.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 25TH, 2023

Announcement deadline is Monday at 12 pm. Announcements arriving after that time will be held for the following week. Please limit announcements to 75 words.

Email requests to announcements@gracealex.org.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR, DR. ALAIN TRUCHE

Join us in welcoming our new Music Director, Dr. Alain Truche, for his first weekend at Grace on Sunday, January 7th! Our Interim Music Director, Dr. John “Chappy” Chappell Stowe will remain with us to help us with the transition until his final Sunday on January 14th. We are so grateful to Chappy for leading music at Grace Church during this interim time and are excited to welcome Dr. Truche into the position!

FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR

There will be a festive coffee hour on Sunday, January 7th, to celebrate three special occasions at Grace: Mother Emma’s ordination and first celebration of Eucharist, welcoming Dr. Alain Truche as our new Music Director, and thanking Dr. John “Chappy” Chappell Stowe for his service as Interim Music Director at Grace!

BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH - MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM

How can a prophet help us make sense of our confusion about the state of our world, and our longing for peace? Join Father Santi Rodriguez for a 10-week Bible Study on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. The Bible Study will be held in person in the St. Luke’s Room on Monday nights at 7:00 pm (beginning on Monday, January 15th, and through March 18th). For more information, please contact Father Santi at padre.santi@gracealex.org. Scan the QR code to register.



ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S UNTIL JANUARY 2ND

The church office will be closed December 23 – January 1 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. For pastoral emergencies, please call the after-hours pastoral emergency number 703.261.9079 and the clergy member on call will assist you.

SAVE THE DATE – MOTHER EMMA’S ORDINATION, JANUARY 6TH IN RICHMOND, VA

Mother Emma will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, January 6th, at 10:30 am at All Saints Episcopal in Richmond, VA. All are welcome to attend the ordination and participate in this special occasion for Mother Emma and Grace Church! The ordination will be live-streamed.

CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE GRACE MUSIC FUND

Gifts to the Grace Music Fund allow us to hire musicians to enhance our worship and make holy days more special. If you wish to donate to the Music Fund, please make your check out to Grace Episcopal Church, with “Music Fund” in the memo line. You may also give through Tithely for a one time or recurring donation (scan the QR code and select Music Fund under the “Give To” options). Any amount is greatly appreciated, most especially during this time.



ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK *(continued)*

CALL FOR ADULT FORUM PRESENTERS – SHARE A PERSONAL EPIPHANY

Our lives are a journey of hope, following a star without knowing exactly what challenges we will meet on the way, or what we will discover at journey's end. In celebration of the wise men who followed a star to Bethlehem, for the January 7th Adult Forum some parishioners will share briefly a moment when they had a personal epiphany or new understanding relevant to their calling or faith journey. Both smaller epiphanies that increased your understanding of some aspect of your life, and large epiphanies that changed the direction of your life, are welcome - whatever you are willing to share. If you have something to share, or questions, please contact Anne Boris at anne.boris@gracealex.org. If you don't wish to present, please come anyway, and get to know your fellow parishioners a little better.

2024 PLEDGES UPDATE



Scan here to access
the online
pledge form!

On Sunday November 12th, In-Gathering Sunday, Grace parishioners brought forward their 2024 pledges during our worship services for a blessing. Pledges are vital to our planning and preparation for the coming year, specifically in the area of budget creation. **To date we have received 127 pledges totaling \$579,758.76.** If you have any questions or didn't receive the initial mailing with information and a pledge card, please feel free to reach out to Keith Davis, Stewardship Chair, at kjd6164@gmail.com with your name and address so we can ensure you receive the materials. If you would prefer to make your pledge online, scan the QR code above. **Thank you!**

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE UPDATE

We meet in person in the St. Mark Room on the second floor, from 9:40-10:15, or virtually via Zoom (use the link to Adult Forum in the Sunday morning email). Feel free to arrive at 9:30 for informal chatting before the forum. Coffee and tea will be available just outside the St. Mark room.

December 24: Christmas Eve – No Adult Forum

December 31: New Year's Eve – No Adult Forum

January 7: Personal Epiphanies, by parishioners

January 14: Saints in Light I: Grace Church Windows, by Father Santi Rodriguez and Anne Clift Boris

January 21: Grace Church Budget, by Evan Robinson

January 28: Annual Meeting – No Adult Forum

February 4: Saints in Light II: Grace Church Windows, by Father Santi Rodriguez and Anne Clift Boris

PRAYER @ GRACE THIS WEEK

We continue praying for all those in need of healing of mind, body, or spirit. We also pray for wisdom and strength for our communities, our elected officials, and our leaders as they make difficult and important decisions. As we join in common prayer this weekend, let us remember those who are in any need or trouble.

We pray for:

- **Parishioners:** Virginia, Michael, Lisa, Lina, Mario, Tina, Hector, Conway, Amorita, Caz & family, Debbie, Amber, Wendy, Kelly, Elle, John, Carl, Jeannie, Sigrid, Ed, Clara, Larry, Susie, Otto, Susan, Charles, Lisa, Cleveland, Colin, Jennifer, Barbara, Mary.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Nancy, Audrey, Charlie, Elesa, Mary Ann, Marilyn, Cynthia, Reg.
- **Family & friends:** Michael, Charlotte, Morgan, Melissa, Barbara, Charlotte & Michael, Becky, Maggie, Joel, Shannon, Anthony, Taylor, Mark, Carolyn, Ellie, Klaus, Roger, Nancy, Tom, Dave & Mimi, Patrick, Sharon, Peter, Cindy, Patrick, Jody, Anne, family of Scott Brady, Steve, Scott, Jean, Ida, Eileen & Dylan; Christine, Lisa, Elena, Nicole.
- **Members of our staff:** Mother Jenny, Father Santiago, Mother Emma, Mother Amanda, Father Ignacio, Noah, Durango, "Chappy," Mary, Kevin, Madeline, Pedro, Amorita, Betsy.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Patti, head of school.
- **Outreach partners:** ALIVE; Carpenter's Shelter; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Cristosal, El Salvador; Haiti Micah Project; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; Tanzania Mission; Tenants and Workers; V.O.I.C.E.; Kathleen and Eddie Arthur Hearts of Love Fund.
- **Those who have died:** those who have died from illnesses and natural disasters; and all those killed in acts of terror, violence, and war around the world.
- **Those serving our country in the Armed Forces and State Department overseas:** LCDR Claire S. Eudy, USN; SSgt Chip Fowler, USAF; StA Nicholas Smoot, USAF; Noah Woodiwiss; for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war; and for physical and mental well-being of all veterans.
- **Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation or studying:** Virginia Robinson; Julie Mills Cizek; Chris & Melissa Reed.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Bishop E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop Gayle E. Harris; Diocesan staff; Altar and Flower Guilds and Choirs.
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; The Diocese of Birmingham and The Diocese of Blackburn - The Church of England; The Diocese of Bo - The Church of the Province of West Africa; The Diocese of Boga - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Congo; The Diocese of Bolivia - The Anglican Church of South America; The Diocese of Bondo - The Anglican Church of Kenya.

You can fill out a [Prayer Request Form](#) on our Website or email your request to prayers@gracealex.org

BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 26	<i>Eva Lorentz, Katarina Epifanovskaya</i>
Wednesday, December 27	<i>Walter Winstead</i>
Thursday, December 28	<i>Matthew Tschetter</i>
Friday, December 29	<i>Linda Durand, Stanley Borgia, Brett Medley, Gabriella Vega</i>
Saturday December 30	<i>Melanie Farciert</i>
Sunday, December 31	<i>Barbara Ramm</i>



Parishioner birthdays are listed weekly based on records from Breeze, our church database. For birthdays missing or listed on an incorrect date, please contact the church office to update your record. **Thank you!**

EVENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO*
Sunday, 12/24	8:00 am Holy Eucharist in English, Rite I	Nave	
	9:30 am Santa Eucaristía <i>en Español</i>	Nave	
	3:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist, Rite II	MH Auditorium	
	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite II	Nave / Livestream	
	7:30 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite I	Nave	
	11:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Rite I	Nave / Livestream	
Monday 12/25	12:00 pm Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Nave	
	Church Office Closed		
Tuesday, 12/26	Church Office Closed		
Wednesday, 12/27	Church Office Closed		
	Evening Prayer - 5:30 pm	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed - 703.842.3121
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org
	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8 pm	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon - 8 pm	Saint Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/28	Church Office Closed		
	No 12pm Holy Eucharist - Christmas Holiday		
Friday, 12/29	Church Office Closed		
Saturday, 12/30	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Nave & Sacristy	
	Bible Study - 10 am	Zoom	Chrissie.crosby@gracealex.org

Get Social with Grace!

Instagram



@graceepisalexva

facebook



facebook.com/
GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa

Facebook Group



Grace Episcopal Church:
Members and Friends
(Alexandria, Virginia)

YouTube



Search for Grace Episcopal Church
Alexandria Virginia on YouTube.

Twitter



@graceepisalexva