



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter
&

January 14 & 21, 2018

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Preparing for Life's Storms

The Gospel passage for January 10, 2018 comes from Mark 1:29-39. Jesus and his disciples have been preaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus has preached about the Kingdom of God with such passion and convincing words that the people are amazed by his eloquence and wisdom. The crowds are also in awe because they have witnessed an exorcism in their very presence. After this, Jesus takes his disciples and enters the house of Peter, where they discovered that Peter's mother-in-law was ill with a fever. Jesus proceeds to heal her and soon realizes that "the whole city was gathered around the door." News of his arrival had spread fast and they had brought all the sick of the village. Jesus, "cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons." After all the activity of this extremely busy day, Jesus decides to stay at Peter's home for the night.

When morning comes, neither the residents of the home, nor the many villagers who came back seeking another miracle from Jesus, could find him. The passage tells us that, "while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." Simon and his companions, "hunted for him." When they found him, Simon recriminated Jesus with a stern, "everyone is searching for you." I can almost imagine the accusatory tone in Simon's voice, "where have you been? Don't you know people need you? Are you not aware that the entire village is looking for you?" Simon "hunted" for Jesus. I love this expression. Have you ever felt "hunted" by your daily obligations, by the people who depend on you, or by the competing demands of our extremely busy life? Have you ever felt like everyone wants and needs a piece of you?

Jesus neither explains, nor apologizes, for having left the home to go pray. There is no trace of guilt and no sense that he let anyone down. Jesus knows that the most loving thing you can do for others is to take care of yourself, to get away and recharge your batteries, to love yourself enough to withdraw from the daily hassle and bustle of life to get some perspective about the reasons why you do what you do. Unfortunately, we live in such a fast-paced world that many of us feel guilty that we are not doing enough. If only we had more time. If only life were more manageable. If only we were more successful at multi-tasking. If only we could be all things to all people, always and in all circumstances! Just thinking about it is exhausting!

After Simon finds him, Jesus says, "let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also." In this statement we find the main reason for an intentional life of prayer. Jesus needed this time of solitary prayer away from the crowds before he continued with the work God had given him to do. Prayer allows us to rest in the Divine Presence and to commune with the God who has loved us from

the beginning. In prayer there is nothing you must be, nothing you must earn, and nothing you must do to fully experience God's love, strength, and compassion. Prayer is not as much about words as it is about presence. In silence we quiet our minds and slow down enough to hear God's affirming and loving voice. In prayer God feeds our souls, so we go back into the world to do the work God has given us to do. Prayer is equipping for ministry. It is a spiritual docking station where we can recharge the batteries of our soul. It is precisely because we are so busy that we can't afford not to pray.

I love when Jesus goes away to pray in silence to commune with his Father. Yes, he breaks bread and participates in the festivals. And, he teaches the disciples to pray and leads them into corporate prayer. But, it is these moments of solitude and perfect communion with the Father that I find extremely appealing and affirming. Jesus purposely withdraws, not with the intention to escape, but as a preparation for re-engagement with people who needed his love and compassion. This is a model that could transform our lives. I invite you all therefore to join us in this intentional form of prayer. We have begun a centering prayer group on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00am in Jackson Hall. I hope you will join us to learn and practice this form of prayer in community. I often think of this type of prayer as preparation for life's storms because it can help us build resilience, improve our hope, and learn to rely on the One who has all the answers. Please join us! Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

An update from Children & Youth: We have had a busy few months in Children and Youth ministries. Four of our youth were confirmed by Bishop Thompson in December. We are so proud of Walker, Paul, Sarah, and Grant for choosing Grace as their church home. In January we launched our study of the images of God and what it means to be made in His image. We will continue discussing images of God through January and the beginning of February. The youth group will serve with the Lot Project on Sunday, January 14th. The youth are diligently preparing for this service day by discussing what it means to model true charity and understand what compassion is. Ask them about the Book of Ruth, which they will be reading in preparation for their service day. On Ash Wednesday, the youth group will begin their Lent program where they will explore themes of Lent such as sacrifice and temptation. This program will culminate in our annual cleaning of the church on Maundy Thursday. We will have our first Church Family Night on Friday, February 23rd with a movie night. The youth group is busy planning the details so please stay tuned for more information!

In our children's programs we had a successful and poignant Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. Twenty of our youngest parishioners participated in the pageant. They worked hard to make a wonderful pageant for our family service. Children's Church continues to be a great success thanks to our many volunteers - Leslie Daniel, Alicia Dwyer, Carlin Kendrick, Christian Tregle, and Carly Whatley. Our young members listen to the same Gospel readings you hear in Church, just in a kid-friendly, accessible way. The lesson is followed by a game or art project that explores the lesson further. The Children's Church lessons also instruct our young parishioners about the seasons of the liturgical year as well as important prayers. We look forward to growing our children's programming even more by bringing back Church Mice once a month. The first lesson will be on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The children will have the opportunity to attend the Ash Wednesday service, then will have dinner and a short lesson. Please be on the look out for more information on our website, Facebook and in the Sunday bulletin. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out how you can support our children and youth ministries, please contact Meg Kendrick by phone 225.635.4065 or through email youth@gracechurchwfp.org.

Thank you & God Bless,
Meg Kendrick

***Intercessory
prayers are
asked for Grace
Church
members who
are ill:***

Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Olivia Pass, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Paula Elizabeth Finley, Anna Davis-Jan. 14; David Stewart, Meg Bankston, Lillian Weller, Laura, Jacob, Macon Roland-Jan. 15; Diana Claire Davis, Emily Roldan, Carl Metz-Jan. 17; Katie Thompson, Joe Dardard, Anne Timmons-Jan. 18; Beth Smith-Jan. 19; Caroline Marchive, Charles Reichman, David Bunch-Jan. 20; Genie McCleendon, Lori Gore-Jan. 21; Melanie Ferris-Jan. 22; Joseph DeJean-Jan. 24; Billy Williams-Jan.25; Debbie Martin-Jan. 26; Paxton McCleendon-Jan. 27.

**Wedding
Anniversaries**

Joseph & Catherine David-Jan 15.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Sister Abigail, Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Deselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Bennie McNeely, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Jeanette Rackley, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Troups, Denham Turner, Rufus Yerger.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, Aaron Zuccsro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads.

Your prayers are asked for the families of Lucile Lawrason who died December 15 and was buried in Grace Cemetery; for the family of JoEllen Cotton, sister of Olivia Pass who died the week of December 11; the family of Francis Audley Smith, brother-in-law of Trish Touburen, who died January 4; and the family of Mabel Lane Johnson, mother of Cheryl Singer, who died January 8.

Many thanks to my helpers when the sprinkler system water pipe broke on January 2. Carla Bowman, Lynn Leak, and Leonard Mitchell helped move the furniture in the parlor, took the contents out of the linen closet, the storage closet where table are stored, and threw away items that were damaged and bagged up the rest. Friday, January 5, Dixie Blue and Rachel Howell came in and put everything away. I appreciate all of their help in restoring Jackson Hall back to order.-Anne Klein

Christmas Angel Tree: Maria Gerry & Kathy Ward delivered all the Christmas gifts donated by the "elves". Thanks for your generosity to make these children's Christmas brighter.

Sign up lists for altar flowers and Sanctuary candle and Coffee Hour are in the narthex. Also Offering envelopes for those who signed up and extra envelopes if you've decided you want them now.

Thanks to all who made our Christmas services so enjoyable: Altar Guild, Choir, Bp. Jenkins, Fr. Roldan, our acolytes & the children who gave an excellent Christmas Pageant.

An Epiphany Bonfire, January 6th concluded our Christmas season at Dan & Ellen Klein's property where we had hot dogs & s'mores to roast, and many other goodies. Thanks to Dan and Ellen for hosting us, and to Richard and Meg Kendrick and the Youth Group, who organized the event.

Youth Group Blessing Bag Supply Drive: The Youth Group will be collecting supplies for blessing bags to be delivered to the Lot Project on Sunday, January 14th when we help to serve the homeless population of Baton Rouge. We will be collecting the following until January 10th, 2018: **hygiene:** deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, feminine hygiene products, fingernail clippers, chap stick; **first aid items:** band aids, Neosporin, hand sanitizer; **clothing:** socks, blue jeans, jackets, blankets, hand towels, tennis shoes, reading glasses, backpacks; **non-perishables:** packs of crackers, granola bars, bottled water; **gift cards:** The Lot Project plays BINGO and hands out \$5 gift cards to winners. Suggested restaurants are McDonald's, Sonic, & Raising Canes (others are welcome, just make sure there is a location near downtown Baton Rouge)

The **Annual Meeting** will be Sunday, January 28 right after the 10 am service. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about the 2017 year at Grace Church.

2018 Pledge Card

In Thanksgiving for God's goodness, and support of the ministry of our Church, I / we will give \$ _____ per week / month / year in 2018. (circle one)

Signed _____ Print name: _____

I / we would like offering envelopes ____ Yes ____ No

Address _____

This is an expression of faith and intent, and not a legal obligation. Contact the Church Treasurer to make any adjustment. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible by mailing to Box 28, St. Francisville, by dropping it off at the church office or put it in the offering plate on any Sunday.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday January 14, 2018

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, James Kirschling,
Julia DeJean, Joe DeJean
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Maria Gerry, Mark Mulkey
Ushers: Carl Fontenot, Tony Horn
Lectors: Glenn Thomas
Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar Flowers: Mark Armstrong
Sanctuary Candle: Available
Coffee Hour: Zed and Rachel Howell
Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Landry Higgins

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Acolytes: Elizabeth Hughes, Nicole Mulkey,
Karina Mulkey, Clara Jane Hughes
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Carol Stamey
10:00pm: Rucker Leake, Sara Klein
Ushers: Zed Howell, Richard Kendrick
Lectors: Will Plettinger, Landon Anderson
Vestry Rep: Dare Didier
Altar Guild Team 2
Altar Flowers: Available
Sanctuary candle: Edward and Leslie Daniel
Coffee Hour: Zed and Rachel Howell
Babysitters: Marleigh Jaehnel, Madie Kane

January 14, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

January 21, 2018

7:30am - Eucharist
(Grace and St. John's)
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 17

5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, January 18

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, January 19

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, January 21

7:30am - Eucharist
(Grace and St. John's)
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 24

5:15pm - Eucharist
No Youth Group
Thursday, January 25
9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, January 26

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study