



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

March 10 and 17, 2019

(225) 635-4065-Office
(225) 635-4410-Fax

Rector

Vy Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan
rector@gracechurchwfp.org

Parish Administrator

Meg Kendrick
administrator@gracechurchwfp.org

Preschool

(225) 635-4030
Lisa Foster
preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Kari Ebner

Alyssa Louis

Allie Lowe

Stacy Loyacono

Director of

Music Ministries

Melvin E. Hale
music@gracechurchwfp.org

Coordinator of Family Ministries

Alyssa A. Louis
youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Leslie Daniel

Dr. Tom Flynn

Zed Howell

Kathy Kane

Tommy Loyacono

Drew Nordgren

Dr. Pat Schneider

Dr. Sue Steib

David Treppendahl

Missy Higgins, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org

Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

On Temptations

The collect for the First Sunday in Lent reads as follows: "Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

The key word of the collect is "us." Temptation often affects entire congregations, cities and nations. There are many temptations that are the same for all of us. We all share this fragile human condition and are subject to the same temptations. In a recent survey of Discipleship Journal readers ranked areas of greatest spiritual challenge to them: 1. Materialism, 2. Pride, 3. Self-centeredness, 4. Laziness, 5. (Tie) Anger/Bitterness, 5. (Tie) Sexual lust, 7. Envy, 8. Gluttony, 9. Lying. These are temptations that are universal to people of all socio-economic classes, ethnic or cultural backgrounds, and political persuasions. In larger or smaller measure, we all become overly proud at times; we all lust after things or people; we all have a tendency to self-directed behaviors; and we all allow anger and bitterness to take hold of our hearts at times.

The collect also acknowledges there are temptations that are individual and particular to each of us. The collect says, "as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save". Many of us are tempted to drink, to gossip, to engage in inappropriate sexual encounters, to gamble, or to lash out physically. These are personal "demons" with which we struggle, and which might be different for our neighbors.

This coming Sunday the Gospel of Luke will give us the story of the various temptations Jesus endured when he was driven into the desert after his Baptism. We can distill a few general principles about temptation in Luke. First, we are told that Jesus is in the desert alone. This brings us to our first principle: **Temptation usually attacks us the most aggressively when we are alone.** To remain strong, we need the help of a community that loves us, supports us, and keeps us accountable. It is not good for man or woman to be perpetually alone. God created us in communities and he intends for us to live in community.

The Scripture tells us that Jesus was fasting when he was tempted. This brings us to the next principle about temptation: **It is often when we are at the weakest point in our lives that we get tempted the hardest.** When we are hungry, tired, away from home, when we have allowed hopelessness to take over our lives, or when we are experiencing a decline in health. The most effective way of resisting temptations, therefore, is to make sure we are getting enough sleep, have a healthy diet, remain engaged in the life of our community, serve others, remain hopeful and have a clear sense of direction.

Next, we hear that the first temptation was, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." This temptation happened at a moment when Jesus was extremely hungry after fasting. This brings us to the third principle about temptations: **Temptation uses our most basic needs as a weapon against us.** In this case the weapon is food. "You know you are hungry, you know you want it, a little bite will not harm you. Did God really say you couldn't eat of this particular fruit? Go ahead and have a bite, you will not die!" It is amazing how many temptations are associated with food. This is understandable, food is comfort and we all seek to be comforted when we are in a weakened state. The issue, of course, is not the food itself, but the internal need for love, acceptance, forgiveness, inclusion, etc.

In the next temptation we hear the enemy state, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" The enemy misuses Scripture to test Jesus's identity. "If you really are..." This brings us to the next principle about temptations: **Temptation usually starts with a cognitive distortion and faulty thinking.** It always starts with a lie. This faulty thinking or lie is what we call rationalization. We convince ourselves the sin is not really a sin, the addiction is not really an addiction, and we will forever remain in control. We are not hurting anyone and the activity is actually good for us. It is entirely possible to use Holy Scripture to our sinful advantage and to quote it out of context, to justify our own needs and lie ourselves into rationalizing our behaviors.

In the last temptation the enemy states, "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me." Temptation fools us into believing that we have the right to do whatever we want with our wealth or our possessions because they are ours. We worked hard to get them. We can use them in anyway we want. This is the ultimate lie. This leads us to the fifth principle about temptation: **Nothing of what we own belongs to us.** God gives our life to us in trust. He gives it and he can take it away. It belongs to him and to him alone. Our wealth is given to us in trust. Our children only belong to us for a season and then they start their own lives independently of us. Even our spouses are a gift from the Lord. All that we have ultimately belongs to the Lord and not to us.

I pray that as this season of Lent unfolds, you and I may become stronger to resist all the temptations that will come our way. Remember that God is the one who gives us the strength we need to remain faithful to him and others. Rely to him and he will guide you through this season. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Lenten Quiet Retreat with Mother Mary C. Earle & Bible Study

On Saturday, March 9, 2019 Grace will host a Lenten Quiet Retreat with renowned theologian, author, poet, retreat leader, Spiritual Director, and Episcopal Priest Mary C. Earle. Mother Earle was a professor of spirituality at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, and is the author of nine books, including *Desert Mothers*; *Broken Body*, *Healing Spirit*; and a commentary on Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*. Rev'd Earle will present a program on the English Anchorite and Mystic Julian of Norwich. During the course of this day, participants will be treated to an inspiring discussion of Julian and her relevance today. Quiet reflection times will be provided throughout the day for all to experience the natural beauty of Grace Church's grounds. The retreat will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available through <https://bontempstix.com/events/lenten-quiet-day>. We have plenty of scholarships available for those

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

Bianna Blanchard,
Diane Christopher,
Linwood Kendrick,
III, Jason Kennedy,
Charlotte Maxwell,
Tom Morris, Eric
Nelson, Sara Nelson,
John Powell, Cozette
Stevens, Kay Tengler,
Mary Thompson,
Wendell Wade, Pam
Willson, Jake Wray,
Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Elena Eugenie Fin,
Carl Fontenot, Wyatt
Olsen, Daniel Schnei-
der-March 10; Carly
Whatley, Daniel
Gore-March 11;
Kathy Beauchamp,
Carolyn Douglas-
March 12; Beau
Farmer, Lyn Lokey-
March 13; Reese Kol-
lins Achord, Eddie
Gore, Sarah Roland,
Jim Weller-March 14;
Cozette Stevens, Bev-
erly Walker-March
17; Asher Simcoe-
March 19; William
Klein, Tom Tully-
March 21; Cora
Fuller-March 22;
James Harvey III, Bob
Finley-March 23.

Wedding Anniversaries

Glenn and Anne
Timmons-March 16;
Troy and Lynn Bal-
lard, Kenneth and
Dixie Blue-March 17.

Grace Calendar & Reminders

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Nancy Bowman, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Rob Cox, Frances Woods Curry, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Ellen Ewald, Sara Fahey, Mark Feltnier, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Wilma Locke, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Angel Thompson, Roland Toups, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Trey Watson, Dennisia Williams, Grayson Zeringue, Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the armed forces:

Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Polly Finley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Aaron Zucaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Grace Preschool Registration is open! If you have a child who will be three years old by September 30th, 2019, you may register today. The registration packets and sign up are available outside the church office. Please sign your name and phone number and take a packet. The registration fee is \$125.00. Registration packets are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29th.

The Over 50's Club will be attending the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Friday, March 8th please be at Grace Church by 5:50 p.m. We will be leaving the parking lot at 6 p.m. to attend the dinner.

Join Camp Hardtner campers, counselors, and alumni for a mini-day of camp at St. Paul's Episcopal Church NOLA on Sunday, March 10th from 3 - 6pm. We'll play camp games, do crafts, sing songs, worship, and have snacks all in the tradition of Camp Hardtner. We will also have opportunities for youth and parents to learn more about camp through question and answer sessions. This event is for every one who loves camp and is interested in learning more about Camp Hardtner. If your camper is interested in attending, please contact Alyssa Louis youth@gracechurchwfp.org, 225-245-1385.

Men's Prayer Breakfast and Centering Prayer will be moved to Wednesday, March 13th. Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet at 7 am at the Golsan House, please review reflections 100-110 in *On the Threshold of Transformation*. Centering Prayer will meet at 9 a.m. also at the Golsan House.

The Lenten Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, March 13th at 6 p.m. following the 5:15 Holy Eucharist. We will be studying Mary Earle's book: Julian of Norwich: Selections from Revelations of Divine Love. Books will be available for purchase at the Lenten Quiet Retreat and then in the parish office. We pray you can join us!

On Friday, March 15th, the Over 50's Club will be attending the Lenten Gumbo Lunch at St. James Baton Rouge. Please meet in the Grace Church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, we will leave at 10:15 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the narthex or let Maria Gerry know so that we may rent the appropriate sized vehicle.

Church Mice will be on Sunday, March 17th from 4-6 p.m. in Grace Preschool. Open to Pre-K through 5th grade students, dinner and fun will be provided.

Parent Fellowship night is Sunday, March 17th from 4-6 p.m. at the Golsan House. Open to parents of children 18 years and younger, join us for food, refreshments, and a good time. Please bring an appetizer or drink to share.

Mark your calendar—VBS is coming! The summer is almost here and we are busy preparing for our trip to Athens to hear all about Paul's Dangerous Journey to share the Gospel of Christ. We need adult volunteers to help us spread Paul's message. If you are interested in serving please reach out to Alyssa Louis, youth@gracechurchwfp.org, 225-245-1385. VBS is July 8th-13th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Jackson Hall. Registration information will be released at a later date.

We are in need of Coffee Hour Monthly Coordinators for March, June, and September. The following Sundays in March are in need of a host: the 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. All you need to provide is cookies and coffee. If you can help with this great fellowship event, please let Meg know by calling the office, emailing, or signing up in the narthex.

The following dates are open for Altar Flowers and Greenery: June 2, June 30, July 7, September 15, November 3, December 22 (greenery). If you would like to sign up for one of these open dates, please let Meg know by calling the office or emailing her. Thank you!

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

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday March 10, 2019

Acolytes: John Taylor DeJean, Baus Fin, Lena Fin
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Bryan McClendon
10 a.m.: Maria Gerry, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Zed Howell, Kelly Ward
Lectors: Trish Toburen, Donna Wright
Vestry Rep: Sue Steib
Altar Guild: Team 4
Children's Church: Richard Kendrick
Altar Greenery: Pat and Ronnie Martin
Sanctuary Candle: Brandie and Tiger Olsen
Coffee Hour: Needs a Host
Babysitters: Emma Olsen, Madison Pollet

Sunday March 17, 2019

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, Lilly Higgins, Joey Peno, Hayes Whatley
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey
10 a.m.: Landon Anderson, Joey Gammill
Ushers: Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen
Lectors: David Opperman, Justin Peno
Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel & Kathy Kane
Children's Church: Charlotte Peno
Altar Guild: Team 1
Altar Greenery: Cheryl Singer
Sanctuary Candle: Linda and Tom Flynn
Coffee Hour: Needs a Host
Babysitters: Grant Rome, Shelby Griffin

March 10, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

March 17, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
at Grace & St. John's
8:45 a.m. Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, March 13

7am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
9 am - Centering Prayer Group
5 - 7pm - Youth Group
5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, March 14

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

Friday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 17

7:30am - Eucharist at Grace & St. John's
8:45am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

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