



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

March 25 & April 1, 2018

(225) 635-4065-Office

(225) 635-4410-Fax

Rector

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

Director of Family

Ministries

Meg Kendrick
Youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Parish Administrator

Anne Klein
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

Pre-School

(225) 635-4030
Diana Weller
Preschool@gracechurchwfp.org
Emily Barrow
Stacy Loyacono
Lisa Kleinpeter

Director of Music

Ministries

Melvin E. Hale
Music@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Leslie Daniel
Christian DeJean
Dr. Tom Flynn
Zed Howell
Heather Howle
Richard Kendrick
Drew Nordgren
Dr. Pat Schneider
Sue Steib
Missy Higgins, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org
Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

Permission to be Human Has Been Granted

I once heard that often the most courageous thing a pastor or priest can do in a situation is just to show up. At the time this sounded a bit silly. Why wouldn't a priest who loves the Lord and his people want to be always present, ministering to God's people, in season and out of season? Why wouldn't a priest, who put everything on the line to serve the church, want to do all in his power to serve with dedication and distinction? Why would courage be required just to show up? All of this talk about "the cost of caring" and the "burden of ministry" sounded like complaining and whining to me. In my mind, I thought seminaries were making too much of this need to "care for yourself", "nurture your inner spirit", and "carve out me-time." To me this type of "me-first-ism" would lead to laziness and neglect of the sacred duty to which priests are called by virtue of their ordination. I left seminary having made a promise to myself and God that I would be a "full-impact priest", in season and out-of-season, ready to die with my boots on if necessary.

I have done just that! But, I now must repent for my unfaithfulness. The scene at the Garden of Olives has brought me to repentance. Here, we see the Son of God praying earnestly for strength to "show up". He knew what was expected of him and he was terrified. He knew that sometimes the cost of caring can bring you to the cross. He also knew that the only way to willingly walk towards that cross was by an infusion of strength and courage from God's Holy Spirit. There is no happy skipping to the mount of crucifixion. There should never be happy skipping to the mount of crucifixion. To do this is to minimize the great sacrifice about to take place. There is also no stiff upper lip, "I can do this!", without a total surrender to God's love and mercy. In Jesus' agony in the garden I have found permission to be human and to realize that I too bear the cost of caring. To pretend that I can be all things to all people at all times is to pretend I can be the Messiah. There is only one of those and I am not him!

What specific events in my life require great courage to just show up? There are a few. After dozens of funerals (I believe about 81 in 9 years) I have come to a clear conclusion: priests are not allowed, and have no time, to grieve the loss of the people they bury. There is a reason for this; funerals usually come in between Sundays, and there is one more sermon to write, one more class to prepare, one more counseling session, one more meeting, and one more pastoral care visit. We just don't have the luxury of time to stop, grieve, process, and integrate the loss into our lives. So, we bury our dear friends, people with whom we have prayed, laughed, and even cried with for years, and, within an hour or two, we are back at the office taking care of the next item on our list. We stay busy, move on, and continue to care for the people God gives us.

What happens to the loss? It becomes internalized. We repress it, we pretend it doesn't exist, we leave it for another day and another time to process with our spiritual

directors. And, when another dear friend dies, we show up again. Lately, I have found myself asking God for courage to honor my friends at their funerals the best way I can, and to remember them as often as possible in prayer, conversation, and liturgy. I recently heard the expression, "No one deserves to be forgotten!" I agree. Of course we know that we are always in God's mind and that he never forgets nor abandons us. But, I also believe we have a duty to remember those we have lost. We are remembrance people and every loved parishioner we bury leaves us wounded. We know we will see them again because our faith is full of immortality, but there are things we can do to honor them until we see them again on the other side of the river Jordan.

One of the things I do to honor my friends who have died is to give thanks to God in prayer for their friendship, their warmth, their hospitality, and their trust. I am so grateful I have gotten to know them and I feel so honored to be the receiver of their memories and stories. Today, I will bury David Walker, a brilliant man with an impeccable sense of humor and a gentle disposition. I drive almost daily by Russell's house and I am reminded of his love for Betty Sue and his amazing poetry. Several days ago I spoke to Nash and I heard in his voice the soft, measured tone of Lucile's voice and the practical nature of Butler. I am surrounded by memories and I treasure all of them. They are not forgotten and they should not be forgotten.

Dear friends, it is absolutely normal to feel these losses. We are not faithless or morbid if we voice our grief. Take courage in the words from *Les Miserables* "Remember the words that once were spoken, 'to love another person is to see the face of God.'" May God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+

Easter Services & Announcements

Join us to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday on Saturday, March 24th at 10 a.m. at Jackson Hall. Please bring a pair of scissors.

Donations for Easter Flowers may be sent to the Church or put in the offering plate on Sunday. The last date to receive donations is Palm Sunday, March 25th.

Palm Sunday: March 25, Join us in front of the church to receive your Palm Cross and for the beginning of the service, and then we will process inside to continue the service.

Maundy Thursday: March 29, Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet at 7:00PM at Grace Vigil at the Altar of Repose begins at 8:15PM in Jackson Hall.

Cleaning of the Church by the Youth Group begins at 8:00PM, followed by a Lock-In at St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge. We will drive to Baton Rouge following the cleaning and return on Good Friday by 10 a.m.

Good Friday: March 30, Passion of our Lord Service at 12:00 Noon.

A special offering will be taken during this service for the ministries in the Holy Land. Please make checks payable to DFMS and include "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line.

Stations of the Cross in Grace Cemetery at 3:00PM.

Saturday of Holy Week: March 31, Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00PM

Easter Sunday: April 1, Holy Eucharist at 7:30 and 10:00AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 10:00AM Service.

The Easter Egg Hunt is immediately after the 10AM service on Easter Sunday. It is open to all children through 5th grade. Please provide one dozen, dyed hardboiled eggs per child with their age on the box. Drop the eggs off to Jackson Hall by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday.

The Church offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 30th and Easter Monday, April 2nd.

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

Emily Barrow, Thomas Kendrick, Jason Kennedy, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Olivia Pass, Don Reinhardt, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, Adam Whatley, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Adam Whatley, Denise Woods-March 27; Chris Jones-March 29; Mary Thompson-April 1; Sue Steib, Ann Beumont, Penny Graham-April 4; Shelby Griffin, Pat Butler, Anne Butler, Jeremy Willis, Missy Higgins, Roy Skaggs-April 5.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Richard and Meg Kendrick-March 31; Bobby and Jane Daniel-April 3; Carl and Gloria Fontenot-April 5; Frank and Jamie Farmer-April 6.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Sister Abigail, Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, 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, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Jeanette Rackley, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Deborah Vines, Dennisia Williams, Rufus Yerger, Lynn Zinn.

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 Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads,

Your prayers are asked for the family of David Walker, husband of Beverly Walker, who passed away on March 13, 2018. Services were held on Tuesday, March 20th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Thank you to Mark Mulkey for repairing the bench in the back of the church. We are thrilled that it can be used once more!

You are missed at Coffee Hour! Each Sunday after the 10 a.m. service we have coffee hour. Please join us for this important time to catch up and join in fellowship. We miss seeing you so stop by this Sunday for a cup of coffee and great conversation.

Have you seen the wooden hymn box? The 6X6 hymn box that stores the numbers for the hymn board has disappeared. If you know where it may be, please reach out to Maria Gerry so that we may store the numbers in the box once again.

If you are in need of proof of any donations made to the church, please ensure that you are making a check out to the church, with the ministry on the memo line. This ensures that we will be able to include it on your pledge/donation form at the end of the year. Funds that are donated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are not provided with a donation form. You can use your cancelled check for proof at tax time.

Altar Flowers/Greenery are needed: Altar flowers are needed for May 27, July 8, 29, November 18, 25. The Sanctuary Candle sign up list has been filled. Please call the church office if you want to sign up for one of these dates.

Coffee Hour: If you would like to help with Coffee Hour on a Sunday, please call the church office. This will help our Monthly Chairs fill their Sundays and share the responsibilities. All that is needed on a Sunday are cookies, coffee, orange juice or other light refreshments.

The Youth Group will be volunteering at the Food Pantry on Wednesday, April 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will get lunch afterwards. That evening we will have a fun movie night. Youth Group is open to all 6th through 12th graders. On Sunday, April 8th, the youth group will be once again serving with the Lot Project. They will prepare a meal after the 10 a.m. service and then serve it in Baton Rouge to the homeless. We are collecting \$5 gift cards to Sonic or McDonald's for this service trip!

Looking ahead: We will have a farewell party for Diana Weller on Saturday, May 10 at 6:00pm here at Grace Church. Mark your calendars as we say farewell to our Preschool Director.

Pentecost Sunday is May 20. This year we are going to have a pot-luck lunch here in Jackson Hall following the 10am service. Grace Church will furnish the meat; please bring a dish to share. There will be lots of games and activities for the children to do. More info will be given as we get closer to the date.

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! This year's VBS will be held July 9th through 13th, 2018 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. Our theme is "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity." Children will be transported to Daniel's time as they learn more about Daniel and God's love. If you would like to volunteer with VBS please reach out to Meg at youth@gracechurchwfp.org or 635-4065. We are in need of adult volunteers!

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

«AddressBlock»

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday March 25 2018

Acolytes: James Kirschling, Elizabeth Hughes,
Fiona Tully, Clara Jane Hughes
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: Drew Nordgren, Brandie Olsen
Ushers: Shannon Pollet, Rob Reinhardt
Lectors: Donna Wright, Landon Anderson
Vestry Rep: Richard Kendrick
Altar Guild Team 3 & 4
Altar Greenery: Tommy Klein
Sanctuary Candle: Ronnie & Pat Martin
Coffee Hour: Sharon Gauthier
Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Landry Higgins

Sunday, April 1 2018

Acolytes: Julia DeJean, Joe DeJean, Charles Fox-Smith, Evelyn Pollet
Chalice bearers 7:30am: S. Gauthier/C Stevens,
10:00am: Landon Anderson, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Shannon Pollet, Rob Reinhardt,
Dwight Singer, Joe Savell
Lectors: Bill McClendon, Justin Peno
Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar Flowers: Easter Lilies
Sanctuary candle: Richard & Meg Kendrick
Coffee Hour: Mary Frances Smart & Lynn Leak
Babysitters: Sarah Roldan, Madison Pollet

March 25th, 2018

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

April 1st, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Light Coffee Hour
Easter Egg Hunt for all
children through 5th grade

Wednesday, March 28

9:00am - Lord is Our Salvation Bible Study
5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, March 29

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor
7pm - Maundy Thursday Service
8pm - Youth Group Cleaning of the Church

Friday, March 30

12pm - Passion of Our Lord Service
3 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 31

7pm - Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 1

7:30am - Eucharist
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following
10 a.m Service

Wednesday, April 4

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

Thursday, April 5

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

Friday, April 6

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