



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

Nov. 3 & Nov. 10, 2019

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How Good It Is to Center Down

We are about to enter a season of endless activity, which our culture calls "Holy Days." We will spend our days cleaning, preparing, cooking, expecting, and setting up the stage for one of the most important meals of the year. And then, in the middle of the night on "Black Friday," we will enter a race that has become frantic, pressured, and filled with ever-expanding expectations. We will spend weeks buying, wrapping, decorating, setting up trees and Nativity Scenes, doing more cleaning, and getting ready for the most important night of the year.

With so much activity, it is common to forget the importance of sitting down on your favorite chair to read a great book, breathe in the cool fresh air of the Season, and catch a well-deserved rest. It appears self-indulgent, in the midst of so much activity, to close your eyes, empty your mind, and allow the God who speaks in secret to enter your mind and heart and fill them with holy desire. It feels irresponsible to purposely slow down to ask important questions about our lives, the purpose of our existence, and the new directions into which God is leading us. And yet, without silence and retreat from the daily noise, it is virtually impossible to hear the stirring and the gentle prodding of that restless voice, hidden at the bottom of our hearts.

We are not more because we do more. We are not less because we do less. We are not created for endless activity. God himself declared a holy Sabbath-day of rest for his creation, which he calls "good." He beckons us today to "Be still and know that I am God." Although God often speaks within the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, we are too busy to hear the heavenly voice. We are often too preoccupied, too filled with worries or regrets, too wounded in our humanity, and too filled with rationalizations or equivocations. The voice of the Divine lover often becomes a faint, inaudible whisper.

This is why we need "Hard-stop" moments. Moments of singularity, when we pair down, unload, disconnect, and turn our bodies and minds away from the screens that insidiously penetrate every moment of our days. Jesus once told his disciples, "When you want to speak to your Father, enter your room, close your eyes, and speak to your Father who sees in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." This "Father who sees in secret," can also be found in your garden, in a favorite piece of Scripture, or in a simple moment of centering prayer.

We enter these "Sabbath-Rest" moments during our busy days not to escape and pretend our dramas, pains, and the acts of injustice perpetrated against us don't exist or don't really matter. These are not "pretend all is well moments." Rather, we enter these moments to be comforted, calmed, soothed, and loved by the one who has always loved us. We enter these moments of rest to be strengthened and equipped to return to our lives as His disciples. These moments call us back to him, the source of all comfort and hope.

Now, let me leave you with the words of the American theologian Howard Thurman:

“How good it is to center down! To sit quietly and see one’s self pass by! The streets of our minds seethe with endless traffic; our spirits resound with clashings, with noisy silences, while something deep within hungers and thirsts for the still moment and the resting lull.

“With full intensity we seek, ere the quiet passes, a fresh sense of order in our living; a direction, a strong sure purpose that will structure our confusion and bring meaning to our chaos, We look at ourselves in this waiting moment -The kinds of people we are.

The questions persist: what are we doing with our lives? -what are the motives that order our days? What is the end of our doings? Where are we trying to go? Where do we put the emphasis and where are our values focused? For what end do we make sacrifices? Where is my treasure and what do I love most in life? What do I hate most in life and to what am I true?

Over and over the questions beat in upon the waiting moment. As we listen, floating through all the jangling echoes of our turbulence. There is a sound of another kind. - A deeper note which only the stillness of the heart makes clear.

It moves directly to the core of our being, our questions are answered. Our spirits refreshed, and we move back into the traffic of our daily round with peace of the Eternal in our step. How good it is to center down!

May our God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+

Announcing the Death of Mr. George Newton

It is with considerable sadness that I announce the death of our friend George in Jackson, MS on the evening of Tuesday, October 29. George was a beloved parishioner of this congregation for many years and many of you will remember him as the spirit and grandfather of our Mission and Outreach Committee. It was George who courageously challenged us to contribute 10% of our annual pledge income to charity. He served on the first Mission and Outreach Committee, after the Lavergne and Mackie charitable trusts were combined into a more global ministry. I will forever remember George's wisdom, love, and support. He was a faithful leader in our Nursing Home Ministry and various other ministries throughout Grace. He was always a friend and a mentor to me and I will miss him. Please continue to keep Ann and the family in your prayers. May his soul and the souls of all departed rest in peace. Amen!

NEW CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES

Please be aware that our principal service on Christmas Eve will move from 7:00 pm to 4:00 pm this year. This is the result of a large amount of requests from folks who feel unsafe driving at night. We will move the Pageant to 11:00 am as well. We will still have the St. John's Christmas Eve Service at 3:30 pm. Please make arrangements in advance. Call us if you have any questions. Fr. Roldan+

Anna's Place NOLA is currently seeking sponsors for their Semi-Annual fundraiser: Champagne and Chocolates 2020. For the past ten years Anna's Place NOLA has provided at risk youth throughout the Tremé/7th Ward and Greater New Orleans community with engaging holistic programming. Anna's Place NOLA, is a mission of St. Anna's Episcopal Church. The Sponsorships range from \$50 to \$500 dollars. If you would like to contribute to this ministry of our sister church, please let Fr. Roldan know, or simply write a check to Grace Church with a memo "St. Anna's Place."

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

Valerie Barnes, Libby Dart, Jason Kennedy, Charlotte Maxwell, Elizabeth Denton Mitchell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Shane Pollet, Carolyn Porche, Cozette Stevens, Kay Tengler, Anne Timmons, Wendell Wade, Marcia Willis, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Trey Marchive-Nov. 4;
Jackson Reid-Nov. 6;
Barbee Irwin, Jerry Babers-Nov. 7;
Ethan Lyon.-Nov. 8;
Caroline Row Finch -Nov. 11; Tiger Olsen, Mason Lambert, Carlin Kendrick-Nov. 13;
Sarah Rhody, Tim Tandy, Deryle Blackard-Nov. 14;
Susan Glanville-Nov. 15

Wedding

Anniversaries

Gannon and Mallorey Achord, David and Michelle Weller -Nov. 14;
Jeff and Linda Pruitt-Nov. 15

Other persons

prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Luanne, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Darby Buras, Jenny Clark, Daryn Conrad, Rob Cox, Frances Woods Curry, Sandy Davenport, William David, Kathleen Davis, Jessica DeLee, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Ellen Ewald, Sara Fahey, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jerry Green, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Mike Larisey, Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Cheryl Meaux, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Walter Oliveaux, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, James and Sylvia Roach, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Rusty Snyder, Cade Stapleton, Kaitlyn Templet, Roland Toups, Millie and Howard Varner, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Dennisia Williams, Deacon Zekes, Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the armed forces

Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Carlisle Cointment, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Polly Finley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Aaron Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 1st 222 Aviation Regiment.

Pledging to Grace

Before we got married it was important for us to find a church that we both felt welcomed in and one we could both grow and learn from since we come from different religious backgrounds. It was also important to find a church that we felt comfortable raising our family in. After we visited several churches in Baton Rouge and feeling like just another number Chris suggested visiting his church from childhood in St. Francisville. It immediately felt right. It was worth the 40 minute drive every Sunday before we moved up here. We give because we believe in the mission of Grace church and we have been blessed with the means to do so. We give in thanksgiving for our faith and the blessings in our life and because someone has to pay Fr. Roldan so he doesn't leave us.

- Alicia and Chris Dwyer

It is that time again! Our Pledge Campaign will officially begin on October 14th, 2019. You will receive a letter from our chair and you will listen to several testimonies in Church about what Grace means to several parishioners. In the meantime, please discuss as a family what your current pledge to Grace is and whether you are in a position to increase your support. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Vestry nominations for 2020 - 2023 are open. To serve on vestry, you must be: (1) a church member, (2) confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, (3) a pledger or contributor of record, (4) permit us to run a background screen, required Diocesan Policy, (5) willing to serve the Church in a leadership capacity, by attending monthly meetings, special meetings as appropriate, coordinating one full month of coffee hours (you will find a team of volunteers to help), and serving in subcommittees as appropriate. If you would like to nominate someone, please obtain their approval, and send Fr. Roldan an e-mail. We will accept nominations until December 1, 2019. There will be no nominations from the floor.

The Times They Are A-Changing! November 3rd is the end of daylight savings time. Don't forget to roll back your clocks on Saturday night so you won't be the first ones to church - by a whole hour!

Save the date, Fr. Roldan will begin Confirmation classes on November 6th, at 6:00 pm for five weeks. If you are in eighth grade or above and have yet to be confirmed, you are eligible to attend this class. Please speak with Father Roldan for more information. Confirmation by Bishop Thompson will be on Sunday, December 15th at the 10:00 am service.

Join us for a wreath laying ceremony on the grave of General Robert Barrow on Sunday, November 10th at 9:00 am. The Marine Corps will be here to honor the Marine Corps Birthday and General Barrow's Service. The Bible Study for this Sunday is cancelled and all are invited to attend a reception following the 10:00 am service in Jackson Hall.

The Baton Rouge Deanery will be hosting a Newcomers Ministry Workshop on Saturday, November 16th at 9:00 am - 3:00pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge. There is a \$20 registration fee which includes lunch. Scholarships are available. You can register at <https://iwcbrevenbrite.com>. If you would like to attend and want to carpool, please call the church office..

UTO Sunday is November 17th. UTO boxes and envelopes are in the Natrix for this ministry and will be collected on UTO Sunday. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Grace Church ECW with a notation in the memo line for UTO.

Sounds of the Season Concert featuring Ivan Griffin, America's premier bass-baritone classical singer, will be held on Friday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. The concert benefits the Old Benevolent Society Building Restoration. A reception will be held in Jackson Hall prior to the concert from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

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

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

November 3, 2019

Acolytes: Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Baus Fin, Lena Fin

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler
10 a.m.: Richard Kendrick, Brandie Olsen

Ushers: Zed Howell, Tiger Olsen

Lectors: Rachell Howell, Rucker Leake

Vestry Rep: Dr. Sue Stieb

Altar Guild: Team 3

Children's Church: Lisa Foster

Altar Flowers: Mary Woodyear

Sanctuary Candle: Anne Klein

Coffee Hour: Ellen Klein

Babysitters: Grant Rome, Angelina Hardin

November 10, 2019

Acolytes: Lilly Higgins, Evelyn Pollet, Hannah Adams, Olivia Adams

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Sharon Gauthier
10 a.m.: Rucker Leake, Trish Toburen

Ushers: Tom Morris, Shannon Pollet

Lectors: Bill McClrndon, Meg Kendrick

Vestry Rep: Zed Howell

Children's Church: Carlin Kendrick

Altar Guild: Team 4

Altar Flowers: Pat and Ronnie Martin

Sanctuary Candle: Tom and Susie Tully

Coffee Hour: Cheryl Singer

Babysitters: Ashleigh Godke, Andrew Godke

November 3, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

November 10, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, November 6

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6 - 7pm - Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 7

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

6 - 7pm - Newcomers Class

Friday, November 8

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, November 10

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, November 13

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6 - 7pm - Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 14

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

6 - 7pm - Newcomers Class

Friday, November 15

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study