



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

November 18 & 25, 2018

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Liturgy 101: The Liturgical Seasons — ADVENT

The liturgy of the church has always used the rhythms, colors, seasons, elements, and symbols of nature to represent our journey of faith, our primary act of thanksgiving to God, and the sacraments and sacramental actions through which we consecrate our lives to God and by which God becomes present in substantial and visible ways in our lives. Our Church's liturgy, as presented in the Book of Common Prayer, uses themes of darkness and light, to represent sin and redemption. Desserts and rivers (water) are representative of atonement or penance and new birth or baptism. Simple bread and wine become the glorious body and blood of Jesus given for us in the Holy Eucharist. Oils become symbols of healing, setting apart for ministry, and sharing in Jesus' priestly ministry. Handshakes and the imposition of hands become symbols of peace and consecration for ministry, etc.

There is no surprise then that the Church would divide the liturgical calendar into seasons. We have a season for waiting and joyful expectation for the advent or coming of Jesus, a season for the birth of Christ that celebrates God's in-breaking into our world to save us from within, a season for atonement and assessment of life when we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus, a season when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and there is a season we call ordinary or ordinal time, which is a time of growth that occurs after the feast of the Epiphany and after Pentecost. The following is a very simple outline of the season of Advent.

ADVENT is the season of preparation for the birth of Christ. In 2018, it starts on December 2 and ends on Tuesday, December 24. You will notice that the colors of all altar and lectern linens is purple. Purple was the color of kings in Holy Scripture, which means that during this season we prepare for the coming of our King, both at Christmas and in the age to come. Purple is also a penitential color, which means that during this season the Church invites us to do an assessment and to change whatever may be impeding God's presence in our life. The main symbolism of Advent, which comes from the Latin *Adventus* or "coming", is the Advent Wreath. The wreath is a circular stand, which represents God's unending love for his creation. The five candles play on the themes of darkness and light representative of the season. Jesus, the light of the world, is coming into our lives soon to illumine the darkness of sin. The candles are lit in succession, one a week, until we arrive at Christmas, when we light the white candle at the center of the wreath. Waiting for four weeks before we light the Christmas candle reminds us of the thousands of years the people of God waited for the coming of Messiah. The prophet Isaiah predicts the coming of Messiah in the following way, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone" (Isaiah 9:2 ESV).

Jan Luben Hoffman, describes the symbolism of the candles as “the focus of the candle lighting should be on the increasing light rather than on what each candle represents. However, you may wish to use each candle to think about some of the people, events, or meaning of the Advent season.” Traditionally, these candles have come to represent faithfulness (week one), hope (week two), joy (week three, which is usually pink to highlight this joy. This Sunday was also the day when Advent fasting would end in the early Church), and love (week four). Another meaning of the candles is associated with prophets (week one), angels (week two), shepherds (week three), and magi (week four). Regardless of the symbolism, the focus is on increasing light, which leads to the radiant light of Christ, the center and true focus of our faith.

The greenery around the stand represents life, during a season where almost nothing grows. The reflective and anticipatory music points to the fact that, although we have our sights set on Christmas, it is the second coming we are looking for. A return where all creation will be restored to its original design and where pain, sin, and death will be conquered for ever. We will dwell in the presence of the lord for all the days of our eternal life. This is what we mean when we say, “Come, Lord Jesus, come!” May you have a happy and joyful advent season, Fr. Roldan+

Grace Events

We are starting to gather names of parishioners who will join our vestry from 2019-2021. To serve on vestry, a parishioner must be: (1) a church member, (2) confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, (3) pledgers or contributors of record to the ministries of Grace Church, (4) willing to allow us to run a background screen, required by new Safeguarding God's Children Diocesan Policy, (5) willing to serve the Church in a leadership capacity, which entails monthly meetings, attending 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 speak to them first, obtain their approval, and then send Fr. Roldan an e-mail. The nomination process will end January 13, 2019. There will be no nominations from the floor.

Fr. Roldan will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at St. John's Chapel on Sunday, November 18th at 7:30 a.m. Bishop Jenkins will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:30 a.m. at Grace Church.

Church Mice is Sunday, November 18th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the preschool. This program is open to all preschool through 5th graders. There will be a meal, lesson and fun!

And while the mice are away, the parents will play! Our first Parent Fellowship night will be on Sunday, November 18th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Golsan House. This is open to all parents of children 18 years and younger. Join us for a time to get together and help us plan future events for the year. Please bring an appetizer and join us at the Golsan House!

The November Finance Committee meeting is postponed until December 18th. The Vestry will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20th in Fr. Roldan's office.

The Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 22nd. This is a wonderful time to thank God for all our blessings. Please join us!

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be starting rehearsals on Monday, November 26 at 6 p.m. The pageant is open to all preschool through 5th grade students. There is a part for everyone! If you or your child is interested in participating, please contact Alyssa Louis at youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Bishop Thompson will visit Grace on Sunday, December 2, 2018. A reception will follow the service in front of the church, if you would like to contribute a food item for the reception, please contact Meg Kendrick or sign-up in the Narthex. We are looking for finger foods such as finger sandwiches, veggie, fruit, or cheese and cracker trays, easy pick up desserts etc.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill

Brianna Blanchard,
Diane Christopher,
Jason Kennedy, Char-
lotte Maxwell, Tom
Morris, Eric Nelson,
Sara Nelson, Kay
Tengler, Anne Tim-
mons, Glenn Timmons
Bob Toburen, Wendell
Wade, Pam Willson,
Jake Wray, Madeline
Wright.

Birthdays

Ralph Beaumont-Nov.
18; Emily Barrow,
Glenn Thomas;
Yvonne B. Leak-Nov.
19; Stewart Hughes,
Maggie Higgins, Carol
Ridenour Dufilho-Nov.
20; Eleanor Thomas-
Nov. 21; John Barrow
Klein, Ginger Reid-
Nov. 23; Mary Frances
Smart, Catherine Da-
vid-Nov. 24; R. E Bar-
row III, Collette Dwyer-
Nov. 25; Rylee Theives-
Nov 26; James Fox-
Smith, Brittany Far-
thing, Sharon Gauthi-
er, Carter Simcoe-Nov.
28; Julia DeJean-Nov.
29; Helen Williams,
Brianna Reinhardt-
Dec. 1

Wedding

Anniversaries

Matthew and Madison
McCain-Nov. 18; Rob-
ert and Cheryl Singer,
Chris and Donna Metz-
Nov. 23; Carter and
Yvonne Leak, Paul and
Debbie Martin-Nov.
24; Jack and Kathy An-
derson-Nov. 25 Neal
and Olivia Elliott-Nov.
27

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Marc Charbonnet, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Ellen Ewald, Sara Fahey, 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, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Troups, Deborah Vines, Trey Watson, Dennisia Williams, Rufus Yerger, 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, Matthew Young, Aaron Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Giving to Grace

When I was young and in college I “discovered” St. Francisville and West Feliciana. I vowed to myself that one day I would live here. In 1994 I was fortunate enough to move to this wonderful community. Because I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church years before, I began to attend Grace Episcopal Church. This church and the community have embraced me with such love and acceptance. I soon realized that Grace Church is the epicenter of the entire community and reaches far out from the congregation. The involvement of the church in so many aspects of the larger community has been beautiful as well as amazing to watch. Our church is not only involved, but usually the lead, in all activities that are important to our community, whether disasters, education, communication, or social life. The members of Grace Church seem to have always been at the forefront of our community’s needs. Though many of our members have now passed away, their legacy lives on in the lives of the next generations. It is my hope that we can continue in the future to be the standard bearer of Christianity in our larger community.

The generosity and the love that is given by our collective members is amazing. I am committed to doing the very little part that I can to help continue both the legacy of our forebears and the commitment of our current members. I am so proud to be a part of this community and Grace Church. The love of our congregation has sustained me through the years. The love of God and Christ are foremost in my life. I have found a church that embodies that love to the fullest. I have been blessed by God in so many ways. I want to always try to return what I can to help our wonderful Grace Church continue in its mission.

I encourage each and everyone of you to prayerfully consider the blessings that God has bestowed upon you. Then join in pledging a part of the extraordinary bounty that HE has given you to Grace Episcopal Church.

-Donna Wright

Stewardship Campaign Update

The fourth week of our ten week 2019 Stewardship Campaign has ended. We have received 49 pledge cards at this time. You still have time to get your pledge in! We will be featuring different parishioners in our bi-weekly newsletter and why they pledge to Grace. Our prayer is that this will show members of our congregation why their pledge is vital to supporting the many ministries of our church. You may mail your pledge card to Grace Church, P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

2019 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 2019. **(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 it to P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or by dropping it in the offering plate on 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 November 18, 2018

Acolytes: Karina Mulkey, James Kirschling, Evelyn Pollet, Hayes Whatley.

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Bryan McClendon;
10 a.m.: Sheryl Wynters, Joey Gammill

Ushers: Carl Fontenot, Tony Horn

Lectors: Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren

Vestry Rep: Sue Steib

Altar Guild: Team 2

Children's Church: Meg Kendrick

Altar Flowers: Jaime & Christian DeJean

Sanctuary Candle: Susie & Tom Tully

Coffee Hour: Pat & Ronnie Martin

Babysitters: Angelina Hardin, Landry Higgins

Sunday November 25, 2018

Acolytes: Mary Barrow, R.E. Barrow, John Barrow Klein, Jesse Means, IV.

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey;
10 a.m.: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein

Ushers: Zed Howell, Richard Kendrick

Lectors: David Opperman, Justin Peno

Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel

Children's Church: Richard Kendrick

Altar Guild Team 3

Altar Flowers: Sharon Gauthier

Sanctuary candle: Anne Klein

Coffee Hour: Dare & Belton Didier

Babysitters: Marleigh Jaehnel, Madie Kane

November 18, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
at Grace & St. John's

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

November 25, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, November 21

12 pm Office Closed for Thanksgiving

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, November 22

10 a.m. Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 23

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 25

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, November 28

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, November 29

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, November 30

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study