



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

Dec. 29, 2019 & Jan. 5, 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

Secretary

Carol Stamey
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

Preschool

Lisa Foster
preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Alyssa Louis
Stacy Loyacono
Kate Richardson

Organist

Jeanne Morris
music@gracechurchwfp.org

Coordinator of Family Ministries

Alyssa A. Louis
youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Leslie Daniel
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

A Word of Comfort for the Rest of the Year

Have you ever felt God is very distant from you? Your prayers don't seem to be answered, the anxieties and pains of everyday life seem to be getting worse, your relationships seem to have entered difficult phases, your health may be getting worse, you are lonely and isolated, you may be grieving the loss of a loved one, etc. And God seems to have left the building and is nowhere to be found.

Ironically, during the season when we celebrate the in-breaking of God into our human stage to save us from within, many people feel cataclysmic isolation from God. All the festivities and merry music remind us of happy days long gone, and our hearts fill with nostalgia and disillusionment. This is specially true for the elderly and those who live alone. If this is what you are going through, please know that you are not alone. Don't be discouraged! All of us go through these "liminal" moments. We know we can't go back to what we once had, but what we will become hasn't yet been revealed. We are in the transition period of life and this is a scary and lonely place to be.

Remember that although it is easier to see the hand of God in our lives when things are going well, God will never abandon us nor forsake us. Take heart, God dwells in these liminal places, perhaps more vividly and powerfully than we can even imagine. This is the very message of Christmas. God has chosen to become flesh in Christ Jesus and he will be with us to the very end of the age. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (Psalm 46:1-3).

I have always found comfort in the words of the Prophet Nahum (1:7) "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him." I love the idea of God being a refuge. A safe place for the brokenhearted. A haven where we can rest from our labors, and find the peace and security we need. I pray you will find this refuge during the season and the New Year. In the mean time, I have a few suggestions of things you can do to reduce your feelings of isolation

Pray even if you don't feel like it. These don't have to be complicated prayers. Imagine you have God on the telephone and just talk to him. Be honest with God and place in his loving hands all your sadness, fears, and anger.

Reach out to someone. Call your priest, a dear friend, a support group, Bible study partner, family member, etc. There is a reason why Jesus sent his disciples into mission two by two. We are not meant to live in isolation but in community. The Lord will bless your life through the ministry of others.

Become involved in some form of ministry. Care for others can revitalize your life in

ways you never expected. Volunteer at the library, become involved in Food bank ministry, cook a meal for a shut in, make a call to someone who lives alone, etc.

Take good care of yourself. Eat well, exercise, recreate, laugh, love. God can use these often-neglected activities in wonderful ways to energize your life. We live in as close to paradise as we can imagine. Go for a walk in the woods, spend sometime in our beautiful cemetery, sit at the park and watch the birds. By all means, leave your home and catch some fresh air.

Remember, we are here for you. Give us a call and let us minister to you and your loved ones at those times when you may be experiencing a “dark night of the soul”, as St. John of the Cross called these moments of darkness. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones and may you have a happy new year. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Introducing the Vestry Nominees: We will feature the nominees for vestry in newsletters throughout the next month so that the congregation has time to learn more about those who have been nominated to vestry. Our hope is this will enable you to prayerfully consider each nominee in advance of your vote. Our third nominee is Hamilton Willis.



Grace has been a part of my life since 1961, when I was dragged kicking and screaming to the baptismal font in the back of the Church by my Great Uncle. Since then, my spiritual pilgrimage has been one of learning about the extent of God's Grace. (I have not found the frontier)

Debbie and I have been married for 25 years and between us have five children and soon to be nine grandchildren. The importance of giving them a foundation of faith to build their lives upon was important to us.

Grace Church has been a Christian witness to the historic faith for all of my life and for most of the history of West Feliciana. Along with St. John's, we offer the civil Parish an historic, apostolic worship opportunity; edifying the mind and soul with traditional liturgy. In an age of innovation, knowing the difference between immutable truth and transient wisdom has been the strength of Grace's witness. To achieve this for both today and tomorrow, certain restraints on our good wishes of today must be invoked. Focusing on our core mission and getting that right is the highest good that I can work towards.

Grace Calendar and Events

We are in need of more lectors for the 7:30 a.m. Service. If you are interested in becoming a lector, please reach out to Meg Kendrick at 635-4065 or via e-mail at administrator@gracechurchwfp.org.

Please continue to send in your pledges. Please discuss as a family what your current pledge to Grace is and whether you can increase your support. As of December 20th, we have 76 pledgers for a total of \$298,090. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

**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, Glenn Timmons, Wendell Wade, Marcia Willis, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Nicole Mulkey, Wade Weller, Ryan McGehee, Sawyer Louis-Dec. 29; Noel Parnell-Dec. 30; Bobby Daniel-Jan. 1; Julia Cotton, Valerie Barnes, Jane Opperman, Reuel Walker-Jan. 2; Emile Marchive, Jr, Amanda Perkins-Jan. 3; Murrell Butler, Landry Higgins-Jan. 4; Tommy Graves, Taylor DeJean, Brandon Daigle-Jan. 5; Rebeca Roldan, Charles Sessions, Elizabeth D. Mitchell-Jan. 6; Jan. 7; Will Plettinger, Jack Havard-Jan. 8; Jan. 9; Donna Metz-Jan. 10; Zed Howell, Maria Gerry, John Steib-Jan 11;

**Wedding
Anniversaries**

Irv and Betsy Daniel-Jan. 8; Walter and Ann Weller, Laura and Neal Croft-Jan. 10

Other persons prayers
are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot,
Charles Barham,
Micaela Kell Bennett,
Wayne Bergeron,
Isabella Bertucci,
Leslie Bickham, Lu-
anne, Phillip Bowen,
Ben Brown, Steve
Brown, Mason Bru-
dewick, Willie Bryant,
Randy Bryant, Darby
Buras, Jenny Clark,
Daryn Conrad, Rob
Cox, Frances Woods
Curry, Sandy Daven-
port, William David,
Kathleen Davis, Jessi-
ca DeLee, Debbie
Desmar, Helen Des-
selles, Cathy Doslovic,
Molly Douglas, Amy
Dwyer, Mark Ellison,
Jennifer Erickson,
Sara Fahey, Mark
Feltner, Dennis Flynn,
Matthew Gill, Terri
Gerace, Jerry Green,
Jane Hamilton, Roy
Hardin, Parke Hen-
derson, Wayne Hud-
nall, Joel James,
Michelle Jeansonne,
Henry Jones, Mary Jo
Kaly, Cathy K., Pat
Laurent, Jody Lem-
oine, 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 Pres-
cott, Tammy Riggs,
Butch Ritchie, James
and Sylvia Roach,
Cole Rourke, Gwin
Shanks, Kaizlyn
Shockley, Rusty
Snyder, Cade Staple-
ton, Kaitlyn Templet,
Roland Toups, Millie
and Howard Varner,
Deborah Vines, Emily
Walz, Jake Washing-
ton, Dennisia Wil-
liams, Deacon Zeke,
Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the
armed forces

Parker Blanche,
Amanda Browning,
Jay Christopher, Ryan
Coacher, Carlile
Cointment, John
Davis, Joseph Dooley,
Polly Finley, Bryan
Geltz, Edward Jen-
kins, Laura Latson,
Shawn Lemons, Terry
Palmer, James Powers,
Jeff Ragusa, Christo-
pher Willis, Aaron
Zuccaro, 745th &
746th Exped Squads,
379th & 926th Ex-
ped. Support Squads,
101st Airborne Divi-
sion (Air Assault), 1st
222 Aviation Regi-
ment.

“Sounds of the Grateful” – A heartfelt Thank You to Fr. Roldan and the members of Grace Episcopal Church for your generosity in allowing us to use not only Jackson Hall for a reception but the church as well for our concert, *Sounds of the Season*, on December 6, to raise funds for the Old Benevolent Society building restoration effort. We are also extremely grateful to Grace Church for the financial sponsorship of the concert. Words alone cannot come near to expressing our sincere gratitude for your great gesture, so all we can say over and over is “Thank you all ever so much.” Both activities were very much enjoyed by all and we exceeded our fundraising expectations because of the loving spirit of community you have shown. God bless and Merry Christmas to you all. Sara Wilson-Rogers, Old Benevolent Society Building Restoration Committee President & Dot Temple, West Feliciana Historical Society President

Welcome and blessings to those who were confirmed and received this past Sunday, Joseph DeJean, Lilly Higgins, Clara Jane Hughes, Wyatt Olsen, Amanda Robinson, Marla Floyd, Paul Robinson, and Cathy Thomas. We are honored that you have chosen Grace as your church home! May the Lord bless and keep you all! A very heartfelt thank you to Kathy Kane for organizing a beautiful and delicious luncheon to welcome Bp. Thompson and honor those who were confirmed and received. Thank you also to all that contributed to the luncheon, we are very thankful for each and every one of you.

Please welcome Davis George Robinson, who was baptized on December 24. He is the son of Amanda and Paul Robinson.

Men’s Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 7 a.m. in Jackson Hall. Please read reflections 200 – 209 of Richard Rohr’s *On the Threshold of Transformation*. Kelly Ward and Joe Gerry will provide breakfast. Please join us!

Centering Prayer will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 9 a.m. in the Golsan House.

Save the date! The Epiphany Bonfire will be on Friday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Dan and Ellen Klein’s located at 9978 Hwy. 965 West. Please save your live trees, minus ornaments and lights, for our bonfire. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a lawnchair. Invite a friend, all are welcome.

Is your child interested in becoming an Acolyte? Children in 2nd grade or higher are welcome to acolyte. There will be an acolyte training on Sunday, January 12th following the 10 a.m. service for new and current acolytes. We will have a pizza party after the training as well. Please let Richard Kendrick know if you are able to join us by calling 225-245-4442.

Church Mice and Parent Fellowship return in January! Both will be held on Sunday, January 19th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Church Mice is open to all children in Preschool through 5th grade and will be held in the preschool classroom. Parent Fellowship is open to all parents of children 18 and under. It is held in the Golsan House on Royal St.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 26th following the 10 a.m. Service. If you are in charge of a ministry, your report for the Annual Meeting booklet is due to Meg (administrator@gracechurchwfp.org) by Friday, January 17th. During our annual meeting we will review 2019, preview 2020, and honor our outgoing vestry members: Leslie Daniel, Zed Howell, and Sue Steib. We will also vote for three new members to the vestry. Our nominees are Maria Gerry, Trish Toburen, and Hamilton Willis. Please join us on the 26th!

The Church Office will be closed on December 31st and January 1st.

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

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

December 29, 2019

Acolytes: Ella Corrine Howle, Hayes Whatley,
Hannah Adams, Olivia Adams

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey
10 a.m.: Landon Anderson, Maria Gerry

Ushers: David Treppendahl, Kelly Ward

Lectors: Drew Nordgren, Heather Howle

Vestry Rep: Zed Howell

Altar Guild: Team 1

Children's Church: Renee Wilson, Alicia Dwyer

Altar Flowers: Christmas Poinsettias

Sanctuary Candle: Carol Stamey

Coffee Hour: Kathy Kane

Babysitters: Grant Rome, Emma Olsen

January 05, 2020

Acolytes: Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Hayes Whatley,
Evelyn Pollet

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Sharon Gauthier

10 a.m.: Drew Nordgren, Brandie Olsen

Ushers: Dixie Blue, Carl Fontenot

Lectors: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake

Vestry Rep: Kathy Kane

Children's Church: Lisa Foster, Carlin Kendrick

Altar Guild: Team 2

Altar Flowers: Kenneth and Dixie Blue

Sanctuary Candle:

Coffee Hour: Dixie Blue

Babysitters:

December 29, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

January 5, 2020

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 1

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6 - 7pm - Adult Formation

Thursday, January 2

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, January 3

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, January 5

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, January 8

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, January 9

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, January 10

7:00am - Eucharist