



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

Feb. 23 & March 1 2020

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Dr. Pat Schneider  
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Steward Hughes, Chancellor

## Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

## The Unbearable Weight of Ashes

The ashes we will get on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday will be heavy, dangerous ashes. These burned-out palms will speak a powerful language of sacrifice, and anyone we encounter this day will know we have been marked for death. The irony of the day and the season is that this will be a self-chosen death. We will choose to wear this spiritual mark, and we will walk with Christ to the mount of crucifixion over the next forty days. It is within our will to choose silence and denial, and to opt for a life of blissful ignorance and pretend. Life is hard enough as it is! Who needs the painful reminders of the many ways in which we have failed God and others? Who needs to face a mirror that shows you to yourself as you are, without pretense? Blissful ignorance and make-believe are often all we can face!

Those who make this choice will most likely stay out of our churches next Wednesday, and we can't blame them. The rest of us will have to deal with the weight of those terrible, dangerous ashes that seek to bring us down to earth. Down from our inflated ego and lofty self-image. Down from our superficial understanding of the world as composed of winners and losers. Down from our dualistic mindset that reduces everything to black and white. Down from the self-righteousness that convinces us we are better than our neighbors. Down from the pedestals we have built for ourselves, and from which we feel entitled to judge the world without mercy or grace.

There is no way to float in the weightless air of self-delusion while we are wearing those terrible ashes. The mark of the sinner prominently displayed on our foreheads will be an unsettling symbol of equality. We are just like everyone else in our propensity to sin. We are just as human in our inhumanity. We are just as prone to apathy and neglect. And we are just as weak when it comes to fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. As a wise poet once said, "We are more alike than we are unlike."

Those heavy ashes will give a forceful blow to our arrogance. They will bring us face to face with our need to change. This self-assessment will not be passive or pleasant, but active and violent. We will have to preside over the sacrifice of our old self, as we pray to God's Holy Spirit to make a new creature within us. Choosing to stop old habits, break old patterns, repair broken relationships, and develop new prayer routines will be hard work. This cleaning ritual is necessary to prepare the ground of our hearts for the new life Christ promises those who join him at the mount of crucifixion. This will be a life of freedom, the result of victory over sin and death. This new life promises an abundant and generous heart for those no longer enslaved by our fears and anxiety. But before we experience the overflowing joy of Easter, we must do the hard work of Lent. We do this not as those without hope, but as those who already know Christ will be victorious at the end.

One of the most clear metaphors for Lent is that of a rigorous program of physical exercise and weight loss. This is how John Andrew puts it in his book, *My Heart is Ready*, "Physical exercise is hard work. Take a look in that unsparing mirror with the light of truth full on and see the traces of the fat of laziness and uncaring; the sagging areas of self-indulgence and self-pleasing; the wrinkles of self-concern that have spread like a map over the soul; the aging of compromise with the world's superficial standards and swift judgments and prejudices. The reflection is that of somebody who has let himself go."

The heavy ashes will remind us that we have let ourselves go. All of us in our own unique way. We are not yet the people God created us to be. We have put on emotional and spiritual weight. Our souls are often heavy and we feel sluggish and exhausted by the many cares of the world. We are all in need of healing of mind, body and soul. The good news is that Christ will be our guide, as we join him in his desert journey. And with him on our side all change is possible.

For eleven years I have preached our necessity to be completely and unabashedly dependent on Christ's love and grace. May this Lent remind you that you were created for greatness, you are the very image of God, and you are loved without measure. Let the heavy ashes of Lent transform you. Walk with confidence to the cross of Christ, knowing that there is a future for you beyond it. May your future as a believer be blessed and bright. May the future of Grace church be filled with faith and growth. Thank you for eleven wonderful years. You will be forever in my prayers.

Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

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## Lenten Retreat



On February 29<sup>th</sup> renowned theologian and Episcopal Priest, Mary C. Earle, will return to Grace to lead another riveting Lenten retreat. Throughout the day, Rev'd Earle will lead us through reflections and prayers from her book *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness*. At the dawn of Christianity, holy women went into the deserts of northern Egypt to devote themselves to lives of prayer. Almost forgotten in today's contemporary society, now *The Desert Mothers* provide you with the writings of these holy women and apply their spiritual practices to modern day life. Each chapter contains a summary of the spiritual practice and a closing prayer, making it a useful tool in your devotional practice. Lunch will be provided during the retreat, tickets are \$20 and are available for purchase on Grace's website, [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org). If you have any questions, please call the office, 225-635-4065.

The Lent Adult Formation Series will continue the study of the *The Desert Mothers*. During our weekly meetings, we will continue to explore the writings of the women of the desert while reflecting on how we can continue to apply the spiritual practices in our lives today. The study will begin Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

### Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill.

Valerie Barnes, Libby Dart, Melissa Higgins, 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

Lauri Benton Dooley-Feb. 23; Rosalie Raymond, Stephanie Ferguson, Merrick Lambert-Feb. 24; James Boucher, Emma Olsen, Stacy Loyacono-Feb. 25; Roman Roldan, Lisa McGehee, Rucker Leake-Feb. 26; John Flippen, James LeBlanc, Kay Graves, Ellen Klein-Feb. 27; Donna Wright-March 2; Jean Marie Hill, Jim Roland-March 3; Joseph Horn-March 4; Carol Stamey-March 5; Claire Ricks-March 7

### Wedding Anniversaries

Lin and Carlin Kendrick-Feb. 23; David and Kathy Beauchamp-March 2; Emmette and Emily Barrow-March 4; Trey and Caroline Marchive, David and Iris Stewart-March 5

## Grace Calendar of Events

Other persons

prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Kevin Beauchamp, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben 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, 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, Pat Laurent, Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Cheryl Meaux, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Ruth Morris, Randall Nachman, Walter Oliveaux, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, Butch Ritchie, James and Sylvia Roach, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kizlyn Shockley, Rusty Snyder, Cade Stapleton, Kaitlyn Templer, Roland Toups, Millie and Howard Varner, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Jake Washington, 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 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.

**Please stay for some Mardi Gras Pancakes** served up by our youth group this Sunday morning between the 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. This is a wonderful opportunity to break bread together and support our youth ministry. Perhaps a blessing of the pancakes by Father Roldan will remove all calories. Who knows? See you there!

**Arts for All art show** is this Sunday, February 23rd, at the Market Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Many works are by Grace Church members. Please come by after church and spend some time at the market.

**The Church office will be closed** on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> for the Mardi Gras holiday.



**Mother Peggy Scott at St. Paul's Holy Trinity Church**, has invited the Grace Church congregation to join St. Paul's at the New Roads Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Community Center parade will be at 11:00 a.m. and the Lion's Club parade will roll at 2:00 p.m.. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in carpooling.

### Ash Wednesday Services

- ◆ 7:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
- ◆ 10:00 a.m. - Preschool and family service
- ◆ 5:15 p.m. - Solemn Service with Organ Music

**It will be hard to say goodbye to Fr. Roldan**, but we plan to send him and Chris off in true Louisiana style. If you are interested in helping to plan, set up, clean up or provide a dish or drink for the reception please reach out to Donna Wright, (225) 235-2770, Dare Didier, (225) 933-1534, or Louise Jenkins, (504) 452-8663. We will celebrate Fr. Roldan's last Sunday with us with a luncheon following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be held in Jackson Hall on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

**Centering Prayer** will be led by Trish Toburen and held at the Golson House on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**Adventures in Grace is planning a trip to St. James**, Baton Rouge for their Lenten Gumbo lunch on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will leave Grace at 10:15 a.m. Please sign up in the narthex if you need to carpool. Please join us, young and old, for another *Adventure in Grace*.

**Grace Church has partnered with the West Feliciana Schools** to collect personal hygiene products for boys and girls as well as small toiletry or make up bags for students who lack the resources to come to school clean and healthy. Also, there is a need for individually wrapped healthy snacks for the children that may come to school hungry. If you would like to donate items to this ministry, please drop them off at the church office. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in donating to this much needed cause.

**The Food Bank needs your help!** There is a need for two pound bags of dried kidney and navy beans, and baby food that has not expired at our local Food Bank. Your help will be greatly appreciated for those that are in want. Please drop your donations in the Food Bank Barrel in the Foyer of Jackson Hall and thank you for your continued support.

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

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### February 23, 2020

**Acolytes:** Clara Jane Hughes, Baus Fin, Lena Fin, Eli Dwyer

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler  
10 a.m.: Sara Klein, Landon Anderson

**Ushers:** Tony Horn, Zed Howell

**Lectors:** 7:30 a.m.: Dr. Pat Schneider  
10 a.m.: Dixie Blue, Drew Nordgren

**Vestry Rep:** Leslie Daniel

**Altar Guild:** Team 1

**Children's Church:** Renee Wilson, Meg Kendrick

**Altar Flowers:** Carter and Yvonne Leak

**Sanctuary Candle:** Carolyn Douglas

**Coffee Hour:** Joey and Peggy Gammill

**Babysitters:** Emma Olsen, Grant Rome

### March 1, 2020

**Acolytes:** Ella Corrine Howle, Lilly Higgins, Jesse Means, Cecile Means

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey  
10 a.m.: Richard Kendrick, Maria Gerry

**Ushers:** Ellen Williams, Tom Morris

**Lectors:** 7:30 a.m.: Sharon Gauthier  
10 a.m.: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake

**Vestry Rep:** Kathy Kane

**Children's Church:** Alicia Dwyer, Alyssa Louis

**Altar Guild:** Team 2

**Altar Greenery:**

**Sanctuary Candle:** Mary Woodyear

**Coffee Hour:** Reception for the Roldans

**Babysitters:** Lily Dickerson and Madie Kane

### February 23, 2020

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

#### **Readings:**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-19

### March 1, 2020

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

#### **Readings:**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### Wednesday, February 26

7:00am - Ash Wednesday Eucharist

10:00am - Children's Service

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Ash Wednesday Eucharist

### Thursday, February 27

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, February 28

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, March 1

10:00am - Eucharist

### Wednesday, March 4

10:30am - Adult Formation

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, March 5

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, March 6

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study