

Grace Notes

April 2025

Grace Episcopal Church

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A Word from Our Priest

My sisters and brothers,

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

We are more than halfway through Lent, a period of forty days not including Sundays as Sundays are considered separate from the Lenten observance. During this time, practices such as prayer, fasting, and giving to those in need are emphasized. It is also a period for preparing for Baptism or reaffirming one's Baptism. In the early church, Baptism was only performed once a year during the Easter Vigil. Additionally, festive activities like weddings are typically avoided until after Lent and Holy Week have concluded.

As we journey through this sacred season, it is essential to remember that Lent is not merely about abstaining from certain pleasures or observing rituals, but about deepening our relationship with God. Each act of sacrifice, whether it be giving up a favorite food or dedicating extra time to prayer, is a step towards spiritual purification and renewal. This journey allows us to understand the depth of Christ's love and the significance of His sacrifice on the cross.

Holy Week is the pinnacle of this spiritual journey, culminating in the Triduum, the three most sacred days of the church year. This year Holy Week begins on April 13, marked by the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday). The conclusion of Holy Week encompasses Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, collectively referred to as the *Triduum*. Derived from Latin, "Triduum" signifies three days. It is essential to observe these three days in order to participate fully in the celebration of the Resurrection.

Maundy Thursday is the start of the Triduum. Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which means command. Two commands were given by Jesus on this day. One command is for us to love one another as he loves us. The other command is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in remembrance of Him. On this night Jesus would have three charges brought against him: blasphemy, sorcery, and sedition.

Good Friday, the second day of the Triduum, Jesus is sentenced to death by crucifixion and spends three hours on the cross, enduring pain and humiliation while taking on the sins of the world. Is it not sin, which causes pain and humiliation? It is important to note that Jesus is the one who decides when he will breathe his last.

The Easter Vigil constitutes the third day of the Triduum. This solemn event encompasses three distinct services: the service of light, the service of the Word, and the first Mass of Easter. Additionally, it incorporates Baptism or the reaffirmation of Baptism. Notably, the Triduum has been observed since the fourth century. I encourage everyone to participate in the Triduum, as it significantly enhances one's appreciation of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the Holy Week services. Please see the schedule details which are included on the calendar page.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

April Calendar

Apr 1 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Apr 2 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
Apr 4 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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Apr 6 Sunday Service, 9am Grace  
Apr 8 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Apr 9 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall  
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center  
Apr 11 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Apr 12 Sew What at 9:30am, Parish Hall  
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Apr 13 Palm Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
Apr 15 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Apr 16 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
Apr 17 Maundy Thursday Service, St. Luke's 7pm
Apr 18 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Good Friday Service, St Luke's 7pm
Apr 19 Easter Vigil, St James 8pm
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Apr 20 Easter Sunday Service, 10am at Grace  
Apr 22 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Apr 23 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall  
Apr 25 Yoga at 10am, Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon, TBD  
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Apr 27 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
Apr 29 Bible Studay at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Apr 30 Center Lunch, 12noon, Parish Hall



Holy Week Schedule



Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)
13 April at Grace 10am

Maundy Thursday
17 April at St. Luke's 7pm

Good Friday - Adoration of the Cross
18 April St. Luke's 7pm

Easter Vigil
19 April St. James 8pm
(St. James, Grace, St. Luke's
St. Stephen's Culpepper)

Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter)
20 April Grace 10AM



Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. *Matthew 22:37-39*

P.S. ** Save the Date: April 26th ~ Annual Roast Beef Dinner ***

Treasurer's Report: February 2025 Data

Income in the month of February was \$9,296.97 (budget \$9,709.92); expenditures totaled \$9,208.09 (budget \$9,709.92), resulting in income for the month of \$88.88.

Book value of the Endowment Fund at the end of February was \$73,059.87; market value as of February 28 was \$81,733.92, a loss of \$179.60 for the month.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Annual Roast Beef Dinner: In Support of Feed My Sheep

The ECW will once again partner with the CCC Ruritan Foundation to hold the Annual Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 26, from 5:00 until 7:00pm. Grace's proceeds will be donated to Feed My Sheep and the Ruritan's proceeds will be used for their annual Christmas basket deliveries.

A copy of the flyer with further details is included in this issue of Grace Notes. Judy Ball has sign-up sheets for volunteers to donate food and/or help on the day of the dinner. If you haven't already signed up, please make sure to contact Judy by text 703 409-3005 or via email judyball791@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries for April



David and Jennifer Coates	April 1
Renee McLeod	April 6
Jenna Warren	April 7
Yanina Escorcía	April 9
Dee Garrett	April 14
Katie Helbock	April 23
James and Marilyn Ottevaere	April 30

April Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> April 6, 2025	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4-14 John 12:1-8	Barbara Jacobs	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Ballantine	Barbara Eanes
<i>Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)</i> April 16, 2025	Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke	Joy Goodenough	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Marilyn Ottevaere
<i>Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)</i> April 20, 2025	Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Luke 24:1-12	Barbara Jacobs /Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Susan Payne	N/A
<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i> April 27, 2025	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Joy Goodenough Sharon Sweeney	Howard Charnock/ Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Sue Ballantine

NOTE: If you are unable to serve as listed above, please contact someone else on your team to substitute for you.