

Grace Notes

April 2026

Grace Episcopal Church

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A Word from Our Priest

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lent is nearly complete. Passion Sunday falls on March 29th, signifying the start of Holy Week. The days that follow—Thursday, April 2nd; Friday, April 3rd; and Saturday, April 4th—comprise the Triduum, also known as the Three Days. These days are observed as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. During this time, we focus deeply on the passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Although the observance spans three days, it is recognized as a single, continuous worship service, a tradition dating back to the fourth century.

The term "Maundy" originates from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning command. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus gives us the command to love one another as He has loved us. He demonstrates this by washing His disciples' feet and encourages them to follow His example, as recorded in St. John 13:12-15. It is also on this day that Jesus institutes the Holy Eucharist, commanding, "do this in remembrance of Me" (St. Luke 22:19). Additionally, Jesus is brought before the Sanhedrin Court, accused of sorcery, sedition, and blasphemy. After the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, Psalm 22 is read, and the altar is stripped. No final blessing is given as the worship continues over the next two days.

On Good Friday, Jesus is crucified, dies, and is buried. Prior to His crucifixion, He is scourged by a Roman cohort, which consisted of six hundred men. Jesus endures this suffering without having eaten since Thursday and without any rest, continuing the physical pain and agony He experienced. During Good Friday worship, the chancel appears austere. The Passion of Our Lord is read according to St. John, with the cross as the centerpiece. There is an opportunity for personal adoration of the cross.

Holy Saturday marks the third day of the Triduum, with the Easter Vigil held in the evening. The Vigil begins with a new fire, from which the Paschal Candle is lit, symbolizing the light that dispels darkness. After lighting the candle, readings recount God's saving acts throughout history. The service then transitions to baptism and affirmation of baptism, reflecting the early church's tradition of baptism exclusively at the Easter Vigil. The Holy Eucharist follows, and the service concludes with a blessing and dismissal, marking the end of the Three Days. On Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Our Lord is celebrated.

The Three Days, or the Triduum, are considered the most sacred days in the church year. I urge you to join us in worship during these special days. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will begin at 7:00 PM at Grace. The Easter Vigil will be held at St. James Warrenton, starting at 8:00 PM. On Sunday April 5, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at Grace starting at 10:00AM.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

April Calendar



- April 1 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- April 2 **Maundy Thurs. Mass at 7pm, Grace**
- April 3 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall
Good Friday Mass at 7pm, Grace
- April 4 Easter Vigil at 8pm, St James, Warrenton
- April 5 **Easter Mass at 10am, Grace**
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- April 7 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- April 8 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall  
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- April 10 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall
- April 11 Sew What at 9:30am, Family Center  
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- April 12 Sunday Service at 10am, Grace
- April 14 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- April 15 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- April 17 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- April 19 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- April 21 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- April 22 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
- April 24 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club 12noon, TBD
- April 25 SPRING ROAST BEEF DINNER  
5-7pm Parish Hall**  
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- April 26 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
- April 28 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- April 29 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall

Please Join Us

Easter Mass

Sunday, April 5th at 10:00am

Grace Episcopal Church Casanova

with

Coffee Hour

Immediately Following



Birthdays & Anniversaries

David & Jennifer Coates	April 1
Renee McLeod	April 6
Jenna Warren	April 7
Yanina Escorcica	April 9
Dee Garrett	April 14
Katie Helbock	April 23
James & Marilyn Ottovaere	April 30



Sneak Peek: Spring Soup Kitchen 5/5/26
With Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day theme.

Annual Spring Roast Beef Dinner – April 25th

The annual Spring Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 5pm to 7pm at the Parish Hall on Weston Road, Casanova. Once again the evening is co-hosted by Grace Episcopal in partnership with The Catlett-Calverton-Casanova Ruritan Foundation. This is a free will donation event and your friends and family are welcome to join us. Please help us get the word out!

Additionally, we will need donations of food and, most especially, help for set-up and working on the day of the dinner. If you haven't already volunteered, please contact Judy Ball (judyball791@gmail.com) and let us know how you can help.

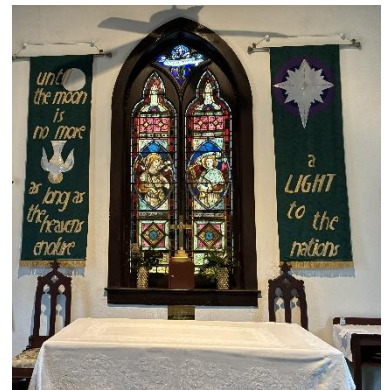
Grace's proceeds will be donated to the local food bank program Feed My Sheep and the Ruritan's plan to use their proceeds to fund their Christmas Food Baskets.

A Step Back in Time: History of Grace's Stained Glass Window

The stained glass was erected by the ladies of Grace Church in 1891 in memory of Mary Buckner Thurston Randolph, July 1809 - Jan 1890.

The story goes that when the church burned circa 1907, the local farmers showed up and cut the stained glass out of the wall while the church burned. The altar chairs were also thrown out the windows. Some of the chairs have scorch marks on the underside and have been dated to circa 1885.

(Info courtesy of Bryan Jacobs)



Treasurer's Report – February Data

Income in the month of February was \$10,929.62 (budget \$9,144.25); expenditures totaled \$7,430.29 (budget \$9,144.25), resulting in a gain for the month of \$3,499.33.

In February the book value of the Endowment Fund was \$76,596.52. Market value as of February 28 was \$95,875.75, a gain of \$1,277.90 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

April Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Barbara Jacobs & Joy Goodenough	Bryan Jacobs	TBD	N/A
<i>Good Friday April 3, 2026</i>	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42	Barbara & Joy	Judy Ball	TBD	N/A
<i>Easter Sunday April 5, 2024</i>	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10	Barbara & Joy/ Mignonne & Diane	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Joy Goodenough
<i>The Second Sunday of Easter April 12, 2024</i>	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Joy Goodenough/ Susan Payne	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Ballantine	Sue Ballantine
<i>The Third Sunday Of Easter April 19, 2024</i>	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Joy Goodenough/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Susan Payne	Sharon Sweeney
<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2024</i>	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne S.	Bryan Jacobs	Sharon Sweeney	Marilyn Ottevaere

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