



SPIRIT of GRACE

GRACE CHURCH, 820 Howard St, PO Box 596,
Carthage MO 64836

**COFFEE
HOSTS**

Feb.

4

Martindales

11-18-25

Rhymer



Feb 2024

From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

What Does Valentine's Day Mean for The Church?

Flowers, candy, pretty cards, gifts, love and romance are in the air...that's what Valentine's Day is all about...right? At least, that is what the celebration has become in our modern-day society. Have you ever found yourself asking, what is the real story behind Valentine's Day, and who is this St. Valentine anyway? Read on, beloved! Most sources believe that Saint Valentine's Day began with a feast in honor of an early Christian martyr named Valentinus and is celebrated in mid-February to coincide with his burial. Some believe it may also be celebrated at this time in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan Roman celebration of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival related to agriculture, while others deny this link.

Saint Valentinus is remembered as a loving, compassionate, and heroic person. He was a priest during the time when the Emperor Claudius II of Rome was persecuting the church, around 250 AD. Claudius had issued an edict that young men were not to marry because single men made better soldiers. They would not be distracted by thoughts and care of their loved ones but instead could focus all their energy on their call to duty. In the very permissive society of that day (polygamy was popular), the church still viewed marriage as sacred between one man and one woman. Valentinus believed those who were in love should be able to marry within the Christian church and remain monogamous. Valentinus saw marriage as a sacrament that brought two people together in a way to experience and live into the love of Christ more fully. He defied the emperor's orders and performed marriages in secret. Valentinus was eventually caught, imprisoned, tortured, and ultimately killed for performing forbidden marriages and for ministering to Christians. Legend says that while Valentinus was in prison, he prayed with and saw the healing of the blind daughter of his jailer Asterius. Asterius and his entire household are said to have come to Christian faith because of the miracle performed through Valentinus. It is widely believed that before his execution, Valentinus wrote a farewell letter to Asterius' daughter signed "Your Valentinus." This was the first "valentine."

What It Means Today

The celebration of Saint Valentine's Day has evolved from sending letters, poems, and homemade paper valentines to loved ones to a lucrative business for card publishers, florists, chocolatiers, and jewelers. While the celebration has become more materialistic, we can grasp the opportunity to show our love and concern for others through acts of kindness and compassion. We can share God's love with the world around us. We can make something good out of this special day. And don't forget to come get your ashes!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cara Borland, Alice Lynn Matthews, Chris Kang, Jeanie Slates, Kevin Aguilar
- 2 Sherrie Stinnett, Gabriel Castleberry, Grant Lasley
- 3 Marty Bennett 4 Tracy Rogers
- 5 Sandy Swingle, Cambry Erdman
- 6 Jennifer Rhymer
- 8 Glenna Broadway, Charlotte Grace Willingham
- 9 Peyton Lynch
- 10 Dean Dankelson
- 12 Sheridan Phelps 13 Dorothy Bay
- 16 John Wampler, Karen Newport, AJ Rhymer
- 17 Susan Ross, Diann Hays, Emma Slates
- 18 Dennis Martin, Karen Rouse, Bonnie Tolle, Elizabeth Cook
- 19 Ann Ulmer, Sharon Hopper
- 20 Scott Campbell, Piper Pierce, Savannah Weber, Maeva Palma
- 21 Rick Stuart, Sue Neely, Ace Simmons, Quinn Simmons
- 22 Quentin Sprenkle, Veronica Sprenkle, Jim Wakefield, Jeff Lasley, Faith Escobar
- 24 Bonnie Pugh
- 25 Mel Anderson, Max Hill
- 26 Chip Marsden, Scott Sawyer, Austin Rhymer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tom & Anita Flanigan
- 3 John & Margaret Wampler
- 8 Tim & Julie Putnam
- 11 Anthony & Patsy Leiker
- 21 Dale & Idell Looney

VESTRY

The January Vestry meeting was short with only a few items on the agenda. There will be a book study held on Wednesday nights through Lent, focusing on the book, The Creed. The treasurer reported that December was a very good month and we ended 2023 with a deficit of about \$850. The Vestry approved the clergy housing allowance for 2024, which is an allocation that is approved on a yearly basis. Fr. Palma and the Hispanic missioners from the Diocese of Arkansas and the Diocese of Oklahoma are planning a Hispanic Lenten Retreat to be held May 4. He is also working with Bishop Bruce to see if there is interest in creating a Hispanic service in Monett.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB 14

SERVICES

7 AM

NOON

6 PM

40 Days/40 Items

Feb 14, the first day of Lent

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet or home that you no longer wear or need and put it into a trash bag. At the end of the forty days, Mar 28, donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them!

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Louise Barton, Tom Huntley,
Mary Lambert

Oak Pointe: Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby,
Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Parishioners: Ann Carter, Terry Chilton, Loren Erwin, Sue Friede, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Karen Rouse, Steve Wampler, Vincent Wilkowski, Hans Ytell

Current: Walt Adams, Lisa Bannerman, Jake Berger, Jim Bracht, Alyson Brown, Dave Crocker, David Crough, Heather Dabney, Addison Daniel, Curtis Feather, Julie Giblin, Nick Grisso, Laura Hall, Cindy Hoover, Dave Johnson, Bob Karraker, Tammy Larimore, Joseph Martin & family, Patrick McCarthy, Angie Miller, Jane Mitchell, Mary Moss, Ginia Oehlschlager, Nick Platt, Jeff Sawyer, Morgan Schott, Suzy Seim, Alycia Smith, Chasie Stearnes, Dan Summerlin, Havyn Thayer, Brandon Theerman, Krystal Transeau, Darrell Waggoner, Maribeth Ward, Brenda Weir, Roxanna

Our Seminarians,

Katie Mansfield & Jory Mertens

DEARLY DEPARTED

Gladys Newport, grandmother of Kirby

CONGRATULATIONS

Katie Mansfield on your Ordination

Owen & Elliott Hess, Baptism

ENCORE

Fri, Feb 9, Noon

Program with Ruth Hartman & Lunch with
Larry Hartman

\$5 at the door, sign-up sheet in parish hall

RETREATS

Feb 17, 10 am-3 pm

Vestry Retreat

Feb 24, 9 am—4 pm

Women's Retreat

Sign-up sheet in parish hall

SAVE the DATE

TEA & THEE LADIES

FELLOWSHIP

Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thurs, 11 am

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly
to email list)

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Sat, 9 am

Men of the parish are invited to join in
the fellowship and activities.

VESTRY

Tuesday, Feb 20, 5:30 pm

KNITTERS

Tues, Feb 27, 6 pm

El Amor y la Amistad.

El amor y la amistad tienen en común el profundo afecto, el respeto, la lealtad y el sentido del compromiso. De hecho, en la amistad hay siempre amor y en el amor, por lo general, amistad.

Amor y amistad se diferencian en varias cosas. Por ejemplo, el amor se propone durar para siempre, y, de hecho, el voto matrimonial así lo establece. En cambio, la amistad, no atada a más compromiso que el afecto recíproco, tiende a ser más sólida que el amor.

Una de las principales cuestiones en que se diferencian amor y amistad radica en la atracción mutua que implica el amor, aunque existen casos de amistades que se convierten en amor.

Además, los amigos pueden tener infinitas razones para serlo (compartir los mismos espacios, intereses, pasiones afines, admiración mutua).

Mientras que aquellos que se aman pueden no tener absolutamente nada en común y, sin embargo, desear fuertemente estar juntos.

La amistad

es una relación afectiva entre dos o más individuos que se sustenta en valores fundamentales como el amor, la lealtad, la solidaridad, la incondicionalidad, la sinceridad y el compromiso.

Es un tipo de vínculo que se cultiva con el trato asiduo y el interés recíproco a lo largo del tiempo.

La amistad puede surgir entre personas de distintas edades, religiones, ideologías, culturas, extracción social, etc.

Las relaciones de amistad pueden surgir en los más diversos contextos y situaciones. Desde el lugar donde trabajamos o estudiamos hasta fiestas, a través de otros amigos o redes sociales, etc.

Existen diferentes grados de amistad. Hay amigos con quienes tenemos una relación más distante, y otros amigos con quienes el trato es tan estrecho que los consideramos **“mejores amigos”**. Esa amistad adquiere un grado de superioridad sobre las otras amistades.

La amistad no solamente surge por afinidad con quien tiene nuestros gustos e intereses, sino que puede aparecer entre personas muy dispares.

En ocasiones, las diferencias fortalecen la relación, pues una buena amistad complementa y enriquece a la persona.

La amistad no solo consiste en el intercambio de ideas y sentimientos, sino también en compartir los buenos y malos momentos de la vida.

Looking forward to the month of February we have some exciting things in the works and coming up here at Grace. First, on Feb. 13th we will have our Mardi Gras celebration here at Grace Church with food, live music from the high school Jazz Band and our first parade of.... Shoebox floats! Shoebox floats are a wonderful tradition where folks take gently used shoe boxes and create fun micro expressions of larger traditional Mardi Gras floats and then parade them around. This year we will have two awesome prizes for best decorated float in a Youth and Adult category. I am asking folks that might have used gently used shoeboxes they are willing to part with to donate them to the church by bringing them into the offices or to me. As always, after Mardi Gras begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday and with that our Lenten Book Study for 2024. On Wednesday nights at 7pm during the season of Lent we will be reading and discussing “The Creed” by Luke Timothy Johnson. This book focuses on the Apostles and Nicene Creed and what it means when we say these creeds and what it communicates about what we believe about God. A copy can be purchased for you by the church office for \$16, all you need to do is sign up on the sheet provided in the Parish Hall. Next to that sign up sheet you will find another signup sheet for coffee preparation on Sundays. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to come in and prepare the coffee for the church on Sunday mornings before the end of the 8am Mass. You can sign up for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you would like. If you have any questions about how to set-up coffee or what prepping the coffee on Sunday entails, call the church office and we would be happy to help you. Lastly, I want to really encourage everyone to make an effort to participate in adult formation or bringing youth for Sunday school and youth group or both. I pray you all have a blessed rest of your Epiphany season and a good and holy Lent to come.

GRACE WOMEN'S RETREAT

CHURCH PARISH HALL

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2024 9AM—4PM

CONNECTIONS

AND

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

We will be joined again this year by the Right Reverend Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce (lovingly known to all of us as Bishop Diane!). If you have a friend you would like to invite, please do!

The day will be spent reflecting on FAITH through the connections we have with ourselves and each other. Throughout the day we'll also highlight several Women of the Bible and how their faith in God was at work in their lives.

Fr. Joe is preparing Breakfast!

Lunch and Snacks Served.

No one will be turned away due to the cost. However, this year a basket will be set aside for a love offering to offset the expenses for the retreat. Please note that plans are pending for childcare.

To SIGN UP or have questions? Contact: Beth Kang—916.494.8359 or kang.beth@gmail.com

MEALS ON WHEELS

A BIG THANKS to the numerous Episcopalians, Mel & Julie Anderson, Gary & Carolyn Cole, Gloria Gubser, Leigh Salyer, Larry & Ruth Hartman, Diann Ferguson, Karen Rouse, Pam Barlet, Peggy Ralston, Dennis Conrow and Jim Kramer. Chair person John Wampler, for delivering meals Jan 17.

FREE PREPARING OF TAXES

Contact: Sandy Swingle

BLESSING BAGS

At the PARKING LOT DOOR

Take a bag to leave in your car, or by your door., for when a neighbor is in need. These bags are filled with some essential supplies that communicate a love for neighbor.

HELP GOD'S CHILDREN IN NEED!!!

SOUPER BOWL

Soup & Cracker Drive. Donate to support your team!

Boxes in the Parish Hall.

Sponsored by: St Martha's Guild

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 10 am, at Grace Church.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Patrick Batchelder, Ben Blair, Chuck Edds, Gloria Gubser, Alyssa Hess, Ashley Rouse, Sandy Swingle and Michelle Theerman

OUTGOING MEMBERS

Tom Flanigan, Shirley Gollhofer, Jim Wakefield & Elisa White

THANK YOU

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: FEBRUARY

Fri, Feb 2, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Feb 3: 9 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Debby Orr

V EPIPHANY Sun, Feb 4:

8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers/Chalice/Server: Chuck Edds

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

V EPIPHANY 10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman

Mentor: Tracy Wilkowski

Server: AJ Rhymer

Cross: Connor Wilkowski

Torches: Sam Hess & Owen Hess

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Elisa White

Ushers: Austin & Jennifer Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser

Peggy Ralston

Wed, Feb 7: 6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Feb 9: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Feb 10: 9 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Micheal Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

VI EPIPHANY

Sun, Feb 11: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

VI EPIPHANY Feb 11

10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer

NT/Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Prayers/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Mentor: Kirby Newport

Cross: Allie Rhymer

Server: Paige Rhymer

Torches: Alana Harris &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Max Hill &

Steve Erwin

Flower Delivery: Zelma & Julie

Wed, Feb 14: 7 am

Reader/Chalice: Chuck Edds

NOON *Reader/Chalice:* Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer

Chalice: Jory Mertens & Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Fri, Feb 16: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Feb 17: 9 am

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

I LENT

Sun, Feb 18: 8 am

Reader/Chalice/Server: Chuck Edds

Prayers: Ashley Rouse

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

I LENT Feb 18

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Mentor: Elisa White

Servers: A J Rhymer

Cross: Connor Wilkowski

Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook

Ushers: Chris Orr & Tom Flanigan

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson

Cathy Thompson

Wed, Feb 21: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Feb 23, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Feb 24: 9 am

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

II LENT

Sun, Feb 25: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers/Chalice/Server:

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

II LENT

Sun, Feb 25: 10:30am

OT: Ruth Hartman

NT/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Tristen Lynch

Cross: Trenton Lynch

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Ushers: Jim Wakefield &

Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed, Feb 28: 6pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

DAILY READINGS in Feb 2024

Thurs, Feb 1: *Genesis 23: 1-20, Hebrews 11:32—12:2, John 6:60-71*

Fri, Feb 2: *Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40*

Sat, Feb 3: *Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51, Hebrews 12:12-29, John 7:14-36*

V EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 4: *Isaiah 40:21-31, I Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39*

Mon, Feb 5: *Genesis 25:19-34, Hebrews 13:1-16, John 7:37-52*

Tues, Feb 6: *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-33, Hebrews 13:17-25, John 7:53—8:11*

Wed, Feb 7: *Genesis 27:1-29, Romans 12:1-8, John 8:12-20*

Thurs, Feb 8: *Genesis 27:30-45, Romans 12:9-21, John 8:21-32*

Fri, Feb 9: *Genesis 27:46—28:4, 10-22, Romans 13:1-14, John 8:33-47*

Sat, Feb 10: *Genesis 29:1-20, Romans 14:1-23, John 8:47-59*

VI EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 11: *II Kings 2:1-12, II Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9*

Mon, Feb 12: *Proverbs 27:1-6, 10-12, Philippians 2:1-13, John 18:15-18, 25-27*

Tues, Feb 13: *Proverbs 30:1-4, 24-33, Philippians 3:1-11, John 18:28-38*

Wed, Feb 14: *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, II Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Thurs, Feb 15: *Habakkuk 3:1-18, Philippians 3:12-21, John 17:1-8*

Fri, Feb 16: *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 4:1-9, John 17:9-19*

Sat, Feb 17: *Ezekiel 39:21-29, Philippians 4:10-20, John 17:20-26*

I LENT, Sun, Feb 18: *Genesis 9:8-17, I Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15*

Mon, Feb 19: *Genesis 37:1-11, I Corinthians 1:1-19, Mark 1:1-13*

Tues, Feb 20: *Genesis 37:12-24, I Corinthians 1:20-31, Mark 1:14-28*

Wed, Feb 21: *Genesis 37:25-36, I Corinthians 2:1-13, Mark 1:29-45*

Thurs, Feb 22: *Genesis 39:1-23, I Corinthians 2:14—3:15, Mark 2:1-12*

Fri, Feb 23: *Genesis 40:1-23, I Corinthians 3:16-23, Mark 2:13-22*

Sat, Feb 24: *Acts 1:15-26, Philippians 3:13b-21, John 15:1, 6-16*

II LENT, Sun, Feb 25: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38*

Mon, Feb 26: *Genesis 41:46-57, I Corinthians 4:8-21, Mark 3:7-19a*

Tues, Feb 27: *Genesis 42:1-17, I Corinthians 5:1-8, Mark 3:19b-35*

Wed, Feb 28: *Genesis 42:18-28, I Corinthians 5:9—6:8, Mark 4:1-20*

Thurs, Feb 29: *Genesis 42:29-38, I Corinthians 6:12-20, Mark 4:21-34*

Tues, Feb 13, 6 pm

Mass in remembrance of Revth Steven C. Wilson

