



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

**COFFEE
HOSTS**

Dec

Sharon
McClellan
Gloria
Gubser &
Leigh
Salyer
Jenny
Martindale
Spencer
Orr &
Ben
Taylor
Clifton &
Emily
Kester

December 2024

From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

Dear People of God and Grace Episcopal Church,
Greetings and blessings to you as we enter this holy season of Advent—a time set apart for quiet expectation, reflection, and preparation. Advent is a sacred invitation to journey together toward the celebration of our Lord's Incarnation, a journey where we pause and turn our hearts toward the mystery of God coming to dwell among us in the most intimate and extraordinary way.

During this season, I invite each of you to join us in prayer, worship, and reflection. Attending Mass and participating in our special Advent offerings is a powerful way to nurture our relationship with God and deepen our understanding of His love made manifest in Jesus Christ. Whether you have come to the altar many times or are returning to it after some time away, may each moment in His presence draw you closer to the heart of the Incarnate God.

This Advent, let us make space in our lives for stillness, where we can reflect upon the profound Mystery of the Holy Incarnation. May we see the face of God in the vulnerability of the Christ child and in our own humanity. Let us prepare our hearts for the hope, peace, and joy that He brings.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. Mass is at 8am (Rite I), 10:30am (Rite II), and at Noon (in Spanish). I look forward to sharing this journey with each of you. May your Advent be blessed with grace and peace, and may you encounter Christ in each step toward the manger.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Joe Pierjok, cmj
Rector, Grace Episcopal Church

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jimmy Grimes, Sabrina Lynch
- 2 Henry Newport
- 4 Lynn Harrington
- 6 Blake Ferguson
- 7 Sierra Bradley
- 8 Pam Robertson
- 9 Pam Williams, Ryan Robertson, Aidan Rogers, Jairo Puerto
- 12 Elaine Wurst, Silas Laytham
- 13 Elizabeth Speck, Hadlee Castleberry, Henry Laytham
- 15 Argo Weber
- 16 Andy Lynch
- 17 Janet Rogers
- 18 Ron Ross
- 19 Jason Otero, Jonathan Palma
- 20 Larry McGuire, Fallon Ferguson
- 21 Pam Borland
- 23 Delores Beiswanger
- 25 Anna Laytham
- 26 Joshua Waggoner
- 27 Jeb Cook, Abby Rogers
- 28 Gloria Gubser
- 31 Elle Stiles Salchow

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Ron & Susan Ross
- 22 William & Kathleen Rhoads
- 23 Mike & Cathy Thompson
- 30 Rev Andy & Sandy Fritsch
- 31 Doug & Beth Simmons

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Hans Ytell, Celebration of Life,
Jan 17, 4—6 pm
Karen Rouse, Requiem,
Dec 3, 3 pm
ALL here at Grace

VESTRY

The vestry met Tuesday, Nov. 19 to continue the ongoing discussions concerning budgetary matters, formal agreements with Maple Leaf Academy and updates from the clergy regarding the new office administrator position as well as the continuing pledge drive and other matters of stewardship.

Update on 2024 budget:

At the end of October, the total YTD income was \$360,927.58 which includes pledge, non-pledge, bequests, and special offerings with total YTD expenses being \$465,793.03 resulting in a deficit of \$104,865.45. At the end of October, we budgeted for a deficit of \$50,542.00, therefore the church is \$54,323.45 behind budget.

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Ann Carter, Tom Huntley

Oak Pointe: Richard Goolsby,

Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Foxberry Terrace: Connie Moss

Parishioners: Leo Baird, Tom Flanigan, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Barbara McPheeters, Gregg Vinson, Steve Wampler, Tracy Wilkowski, Vincent Wilkowski, Bill Wilson

Current: George Bates, Leonel Gomez, Cecil Howard, Howard Family, Jim Hunter, Dennis Lane, Donald Manka, Maynard Mitchell, Gene Mitchell, Jane Mitchell, Gina Oehlschlager, Kristi Ogle, Mannie Orr, Connie Orr, Lauren Petticrew, Patsy Piercy, Caleb Porter, Suzy Seim, Carolyn Wyatt, Carole

Seminarian, Jory Mertens

THURS & FRI OFFICES CLOSED

Dec 26 & 27

Dec 27: NO MASS

SAVE the DATE

**TEA & THEE LADIES
FELLOWSHIP
Every Wed, 10 am**

**BIBLE STUDY
Every Thurs, 11 am
In-person or via Zoom**

**QUILTERS
Every Thurs, noon**

**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.**

**KNITTERS
Second & Fourth Tues,
Dec 10 & NO 24,
6 pm**

**CAREGIVERS
Third Tues, Dec 17, 2 pm**

**VESTRY
Third Tues, Dec 17, 5:30 pm**

DECEMBER

6-7 Olde World Market Fri. 5:30—7:30 pm Sat. 9 am—3 pm

8 Bishop Bruce Visit, 8 & 10:30 Service 3 pm Lady of Guadalupe

11 Mass 6 pm to follow Mass, St Nick Party & Pizza

12 Carthage Carols 6 pm A Community Event

16 Posada, Parish Hall 6 pm Bring Dessert

18 Posada, Youth Episcopad 7 pm Greening of Church & Dinner after Mass

22 Lessons & Carols 6 pm

24 Mass 5 pm Spanish Mass 7 pm Mass 10:30 pm

25 Mass 10 am

26 & 27 Offices Closed, NO Mass

28 Mass 5 pm Holy Innocents 31 Youth NYE Lock-In 5 pm

EL ANFITRION CELESTIAL

El anfitrión celestial respondió al más grande evento de bendición con un coro unido de voces que cantaban alabanzas a Dios por su regalo indecible a la humanidad. “Y repentinamente apareció con el ángel una multitud de las huestes celestiales, que alababan a Dios y decían: ¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas, y en la tierra paz, buena voluntad para con los hombres!” (Lucas 2:13,14). Los ángeles estaban cantando sobre la bondad y amor de Dios para con el hombre, que en ese momento se manifestaba con el nacimiento del Redentor para el mundo. La expresión ‘buena voluntad hacia los hombres’ se ha confundido al pensar que esta ‘buena voluntad’ no siempre se ha cumplido en la creación humana desde que Jesús vino al mundo. Los cristianos observan el hecho de que no existe buena voluntad entre los hombres tan igual a la época en que Jesús naciera, pero estamos seguros que esta característica de perfección será una realidad bajo el reino de Cristo.

En la evidencia bíblica leemos: “Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, más tenga vida eterna.” (Juan 3:16) Éste fue el más grande de todos los regalos, que beneficiará a toda la humanidad. En el futuro bajo el reino de verdad y justicia, el mundo entero llegará a comprender y querrá cantar alabanzas a Dios. —Hechos 17:31

Con el nacimiento de un Salvador, se completó el Plan de Dios de redención y reconciliación con la humanidad. Era un plan de gran alcance para la recuperación de la familia humana desde la sentencia de pecado y muerte que habían recibido como consecuencia de la desobediencia. Su plan se había cumplido con Jesús como la figura central de las promesas del Antiguo y Nuevo Testamento. Con ese nacimiento, esta promesa de un Salvador había sido realizada finalmente.

Muchos siglos antes de que este bendito evento ocurriera, el profeta Isaías fue movido por el Espíritu Santo de Dios para escribir estas palabras inspiradoras y tan familiares que a menudo vienen a nuestra mente durante estas fechas de fiestas. Él escribió: “Porque un niño nos es nacido, hijo nos es dado, y el principado sobre su hombro; y llamará su nombre Admirable, Consejero, Dios fuerte, Padre eterno, Príncipe de paz.

With the month of December comes the season of Advent, the official beginning to a new year in the liturgical life of the church. Often, but not in every church community, it is the practice of Christians to pick-up a new spiritual practice or engage in themed reflections for the season. Usually in preparation for Christmas, or similarly to the season Lent, Easter. We Christians, especially Christians in the tradition of the Episcopal Church like to have a discipline or practice that is accessible and manageable for our day to day lives. This year, for the season of Advent I am going to be focusing on some key portions from each of the gospels. Particularly, the beginning of each. If you want to follow along with me in your practices this advent here is the rough outline of what I am going to do. I encourage you to try something that aids or benefits your spiritual wellness for yourself and/or your family this advent. For the first week of Advent, I will be reading the infancy narrative from Matthew's gospel, focusing on chapters one and two. These provide for us the genealogical background for Jesus through his earthly father Joseph's family tree, in addition to the birth story in Bethlehem. I am going to journal about what stands out to me for this week when I read and then re-read these two chapters everyday for the first week of advent. For the second week of advent, I will be reading the infancy narrative from Luke's gospel, focusing on chapters one and two. Luke's account of Jesus' birth differs slightly from Matthew's gospel and introduces new characters to the infancy story. Again, I will be noting what stands out to me every day and comparing the accounts of Jesus' infancy and birth. During the third week of advent, I will turn to the gospel of John. This gospel opens with a completely different from the other gospels, and is the gospel not considered synoptic, meaning in the simplest explanation that the other three gospels have much in common while the gospel of John stands out a bit on its own. The themes which will be woven for the reader are set in the very beginning of this gospel with a sort of prologue even though it goes unnamed as such. It is worth noting for the season of advent that the opening to the gospel of John reenforces the theological foundation for the church season. Again, I will be journaling about what connections I am making between all the gospels thus far in their opening narratives. Finally, I will finish this season of advent with a week spent in the first chapter of Mark's gospel. This is our oldest gospel, as far as we are aware, and begins with Jesus at the Jordan river just prior to His baptism. Again, the focus here is to make note of the greater themes and connections to be made across the opening to all these gospels. I look forward to seeing what this season of reflections will bring me. I hope you too will pick up a practice for this season of advent with the intention of furthering your spiritual journey. At a time of year when we begin to think about gifts more and more, what greater gift might there be for oneself than to nourish your spiritual health. I pray you all have a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas.

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: DECEMBER

I ADVENT

Sun, Dec 1: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer
Chalice/Prayers/Server: Bill Putnam
Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

I ADVENT Sun, Dec 1: 10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy
NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst
Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle
Mentor: Tracy Wilkowski
Server: Connor Wilkowski
Cross: Owen Hess
Torches: Elizabeth Frink & Allie Rhymer
Sacristan: Pam White
AV: Jennifer Rhymer
Ushers: Jack & Jeanie Slates
Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Wed, Dec 4: 6 pm

Reader: A J Rhymer
Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Dec 6: 10 am

Reader: Zelma Watts
Server: Mark Jones
Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 7: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

5 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam
Chalice: Bill Putnam
Sacristan: Beth Simmons

II ADVENT

Sun, Dec 8: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse
Chalice/Server:
Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer
Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

II ADVENT

Dec 8: 10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer
NT: Michelle Theerman
Chalice: AJ Rhymer
Prayers/Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer
Cross: Allie Rhymer
Server: Brooklyn Rhymer
Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke
Sacristan: Cathy Thompson
AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris
Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin
Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

ST NICK, Wed, Dec 11: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens
Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Dec 13: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely
Reader: Carole Pryor
Server: Mark Jones

Sat, Dec 14: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Michael Goolsby
Sacristan: Beth Simmons

III ADVENT

Sun, Dec 15: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer
Chalice/Prayers: Mark Sponaugle
Server:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

III ADVENT

Dec 15: 10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman
NT: Regina Newport
Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman
Mentor: Elisa White

Servers: Alana Harris

Cross: Sam Hess

Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook

Ushers: Chris Orr & Spencer Orr

Sacristan: Pam White

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson & Cathy
Thompson

Wed, Dec 18: 6 pm

Reader: Jon Haffner

Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

Fri, Dec 20: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sat, Dec 21: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson
5 pm

Reader: Michael Goolsby

Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Pam White

IV ADVENT

Dec 22: 8 am

Reader/Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Prayers: Ashley Rouse

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

IV ADVENT

Dec 22: 10:30am

OT: Michelle Theerman

NT: Nic Smith

Chalice: Jennifer Rhymer

Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Trenton Lynch

Cross: Walker Lasley

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

AV: Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec 24: 5 pm

OT: Paige Rhymer

NT: A J Rhymer

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Prayers/Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Mentor: Elisa White

Server: Brooklyn Rhymer

Cross: Owen Hess

Torches: Sam Hess & Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Jimmy Grimes &

Richard Ralston

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Dec 24: 10:30 pm INCENSE

OT: Shirley Gollhofer

NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Tristen Lynch

Cross: Trenton Lynch

Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke

Thurifer: Maddie Kyger

Boat: Alana Harris

Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman

Sacristan: Pam White

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

NATIVITY, Dec 25: 10 am

OT/NT: Mark Sponaugle

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

AV: Jim Wakefield

<p><u>Sat, Dec 28: 9 am</u> <i>Sacristan:</i> Cathy Thompson <u>5 pm</u> <i>Reader:</i> <i>Chalice:</i> <i>Sacristan:</i> Beth Simmons <u>I CHRISTMAS</u> <u>Sun, Dec 29: 8 am</u> <i>Reader:</i> Ashley Rouse <i>Chalice/ Server:</i> Bill Putnam <i>Prayers:</i> Shirley Gollhofer <i>Sacristan:</i> Shirley Gollhofer</p>	<p><u>I CHRISTMAS</u> <u>Sun, Dec 29: 10:30 am</u> <i>OT:</i> Leigh Salyer <i>NT:</i> A.J. Rhymer <i>Chalice:</i> Chuck Edds <i>Prayers/ Chalice:</i> Michael Goolsby <i>Server:</i> A.J. Rhymer <i>Cross:</i> Larry Hartman <i>Torches:</i> Ruth Hartman & Elaine Wurst <i>Ushers:</i> Chris Orr & Zach Hess <i>Sacristan:</i> Cathy Thompson <i>AV:</i> Jim Wakefield</p>
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With Advent quickly approaching, I am pleased to announce several occasions featuring our dedicated choir. Two vastly different programs will be presented in addition to regularly scheduled Advent and Christmas services. New this year is a community focused event titled “Carthage Carols”, designed to allow members of the community to make music together. Area singers and instrumentalists will perform a fun selection of popular carols such as “Deck the Hall”, “Let it Snow”, “Joy to the World”, and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. Featuring choir, piano, organ, brass, and woodwinds this program is sure to be a good time for all. A festive reception with Wassail, hot cocoa, and cookies will follow. The date for the “Carthage Carols” is Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 pm.

Totally different from the community carols program is A Service of Lessons and Carols. This service, first imagined in England in 1918, presents the story of Christ’s foretelling and birth through a series of readings. Each reading is paired with corresponding hymns and carols. Lessons and Carols is the highlight of the choral program here at Grace; giving the choir an opportunity to present an array of styles and texts from ancient to modern. The date for Lessons and Carols is Sunday, December 22 at 6:00 pm. Our Christmas choir services often attract many visitors to our pews, and we hope to see many parishioners as well. On behalf of the choir, I hope these services offer feelings of peace, inspiration, and joy as we navigate the Advent season of darkness into that of light.

Peter Frost
Organist and Choirmaster

Olde World Christmas Market

At the Historic Grace Church

Friday, December 6th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The Market raises money for schools and food for needy children in Haiti. The average daily wage in Haiti is less than \$5, if you can find work. The United Nations report that close to 5 million face severe hunger.

Friday is a “pre-showing gala” with wine & hors d’oeuvres. Shoppers will be charged a \$10 admission fee. The Market is open to the public on Saturday with no admission charge.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

YEAR 2025

JENNIFER RHYMER

CLIFTON KESTER

AMANDA SMITH

MICHELLE THEERMAN

Pictures and Bio will appear in
January Newsletter

DAILY READINGS in DECEMBER 2024

I ADVENT, Dec 1: *Jeremiah 33:14-16, I Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36*

Mon, Dec 2: *Isaiah 1:10-20, I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Luke 20:1-8*

Tues, Dec 3: *Isaiah 1:21-31, I Thessalonians 2:1-12, Luke 20:9-18*

Wed, Dec 4: *Isaiah 2:1-11, I Thessalonians 2:13-20, Luke 20:19-26*

Thurs, Dec 5: *Isaiah 2:12-22, I Thessalonians 3:1-13, Luke 20:27-40*

Fri, Dec 6: *Isaiah 3:8-15, I Thessalonians 4:1-12, Luke 20:41—21:4*

Sat, Dec 7: *Isaiah 4:2-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 21:5-19*

II ADVENT, Sun, Dec 8: *Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*

Mon, Dec 9: *Isaiah 5:8-12, 18-23, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Luke 21:20-28*

Tues, Dec 10: *Isaiah 5:13-17, 24-25, I Thess 5:12-28, Luke 21:29-38*

Wed, Dec 11: *Isaiah 6:1-13, II Thess 1:1-12, John 7:53—8:11*

Thurs, Dec 12: *Isaiah 7:1-9, II Thess 2:1-12, Luke 22:1-13*

Fri, Dec 13: *Isaiah 7:10-25, II Thessalonians 2:13—3:5, Luke 22:14-30*

Sat, Dec 14: *Isaiah 8:1-15, II Thess 3:6-18, Luke 22:31-38*

III ADVENT, Sun, Dec 15: *Zephaniah 3:14-20, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18*

Mon, Dec 16: *Isaiah 8:16—9:1, II Peter 1:1-11, Luke 22:39-53*

Tues, Dec 17: *Isaiah 9:1-7, II Peter 1:12-21, Luke 22:54-69*

Wed, Dec 18: *Isaiah 9:8-17, II Peter 2:1-10a, Mark 1:1-8*

Thurs, Dec 19: *Isaiah 9:18—10:4, II Peter 2:10b-16, Matthew 3:1-12*

Fri, Dec 20: *Isaiah 10:5-19, II Peter 2:17-22, Matthew 11:2-15*

Sat, Dec 21: *Habakkuk 2:1-4, Hebrews 10:35—11:1, John 20:24-29*

IV ADVENT, Sun, Dec 22: *Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55*

Mon, Dec 23: *Isaiah 11:1-9, Revelation 20:1-10, John 5:30-47*

Tues, Dec 24: *Isaiah 35:1-10, Rev 22:12-17, 21, Luke 1:67-80*

Wed, Dec 25: *Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20*

Thurs, Dec 26: *Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15, Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51c-60, Matthew 23:34-39*

Fri, Dec 27: *Exodus 33:18-23, I John 1:1-9, John 21:19b-24*

Sat, Dec 28: *Jer 31:15-17, Rev 21:1-7, Matt 2:13-18*

I CHRISTMAS, Sun, Dec 29: *Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18*

Mon, Dec 30: *Isaiah 25:1-9, Rev 1:9-20, John 7:53—8:11*

Tues, Dec 31: *Isaiah 26:1-9, II Corinthians 5:16—6:2, John 8:12-19*

