



May 2025

From the Desk of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok

Back to Basics: Rediscovering Our Faith as Episcopalians

A New Sunday Morning Teaching Series at Grace

One of the great joys—and challenges—of following Jesus is learning to live out our faith with clarity, courage, and compassion. In a world that often feels complex and overwhelming, it's more important than ever to return to the foundations of our Christian identity and reflect on what it means to be disciples in the Episcopal tradition. Too often, we assume that people come to the Church already knowing what it means to be a Christian—or that if someone grew up in the Episcopal Church, they must understand why we do what we do and the way we do it. But more often than not, that's simply not the case. And that's okay! The journey of faith is one of constant growth and discovery. To help us explore these essential questions together, I've developed a new class that will take us *back to the basics* and begin to build a firmer foundation on which we faithfully stand. Beginning **Sunday, June 1st at 9:30am**, I'll be offering a six-week Sunday morning teaching series titled **"Exploring the Way: Christianity through the Episcopal Lens."** We'll look at core Christian beliefs, the role of Scripture, the liturgical calendar, the Book of Common Prayer, and how we live out our baptismal promises in daily life—all through the unique lens of the Episcopal tradition. This class will be followed by a second six-week course focused entirely on **the Eucharist**, beginning later in the summer. Both courses are designed to be accessible, thoughtful, and enriching for newcomers and longtime members alike. Whether you've been in the pews for decades or you're just beginning to explore the Episcopal way of following Jesus, I hope you'll join us. Bring your questions, bring a friend, and bring an open heart. To sign up, please stop by the Parish House or email me directly at priest@gracecarthage.com.

SPIRIT of GRACE

GRACE CHURCH, 820 Howard St., PO Box 596,

Carthage MO 64836

417-358-4631, fax 417-358-6775

COFFEE HOSTS



04-May:
Ben Taylor
Spencer Orr

11-May:
Anne Randall
Elaine Wurst

18-May:
Open

25-May:
Open

Mayo es el Mes dedicado a la Virgen María.

La costumbre nació en la antigua Grecia. El mes mayo era dedicado a Artemisa, la diosa de la fecundidad. Algo similar sucedía en la antigua Roma pues mayo era dedicado a Flora, la diosa de la vegetación. En aquella época celebraban los ludi florals o los juegos florales a finales de abril y pedían su intercesión. En la época medieval abundaron costumbres similares, todo centrado en la llegada del buen tiempo y el alejamiento del invierno. El 1 de mayo era considerado como el apogeo de la primavera.

Durante este período, antes del siglo XII, entró en vigor la tradición de Tricesimum o "La devoción de treinta días a María". Estas celebraciones se llevaban a cabo del 15 de agosto al 14 de septiembre y todavía puede observarse en algunas áreas.

La idea de un mes dedicado específicamente a María se remonta al tiempo barroco o siglo XVII. Si bien, no siempre se llevó a cabo en mayo, el mes de María incluía treinta ejercicios espirituales diarios en honor a la Madre de Dios. Fue en esta época que el mes de mayo y de María se combinaron, haciendo que esta celebración cuente con devociones especiales organizadas cada día durante todo el mes. Esta costumbre se extendió sobre todo durante el siglo XIX y se practica hasta hoy. Los altares y coronaciones en este mes no son solo privilegios de la parroquia. En los hogares también se puede participar plenamente en la vida de la Iglesia.

Debemos darle un lugar especial a María no porque sea una tradición de larga data en la Iglesia o por las gracias especiales que se pueden obtener, sino porque María es nuestra Madre, la madre de todo el mundo y porque se preocupa por todos nosotros, intercediendo incluso en los asuntos más pequeños.

Mayo es el mes de las flores, de la primavera. Muchas familias esperan este mes para celebrar la fiesta por la recepción de algún sacramento de un familiar.

También, Mayo es el mes en el que todos recuerdan a su mamá (el famoso 10 de Mayo) y las flores son el regalo más frecuente de los hijos para agasajar a quien les dio la vida.

Por otro lado, todos saben que este mes es el ideal para estar al aire libre, rodeado de la belleza natural de nuestros campos. Precisamente por esto, porque todo lo que nos rodea nos debe recordar a nuestro Creador, este mes se lo dedicamos a la más delicada de todas sus creaturas: la santísima Virgen María, alma delicada que ofreció su vida al cuidado y servicio de Jesucristo, nuestro redentor.

María era una mujer de profunda vida de oración, vivía siempre cerca de Dios. Era una mujer humilde, es decir, sencilla; era generosa, se olvidaba de sí misma para darse a los demás; tenía gran caridad, amaba y ayudaba a todos por igual; era servicial, atendía a José y a Jesús con amor; vivía con alegría; era paciente con su familia; sabía aceptar la voluntad de Dios en su vida.

This month, I want to encourage everyone within the parish to consider their own ministry(ies) within the life of the church. There are a variety of ways that lay persons, meaning those who are not ordained, in The Episcopal Church can participate in ministry. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.

Essentially, love God and love your neighbor, in what way you may ask? The world is practically your oyster. However, if that seems a bit daunting in size, then perhaps you might consider ways in which you can participate in ministries here at Grace Church.

If you have a gift for reading, I encourage you to consider offering your gift to the congregation through reading one of the scriptures at mass. Or, if you have always felt a deeper desire to be more involved within the mass, perhaps you might want to pray about being a eucharistic minister by serving the chalice or even being an acolyte (yes, adults can be acolytes too!)

One of the greatest joys of going to church growing up for me was the gift of being able to serve in the mass. Whether it be as an usher when I was much smaller than I am now, or being acolyte, having read or being given the opportunity to offer the prayers of the people. My spiritual journey was enriched by service in those ministries. I found that enrichment through participating in the mass.

Wherever your gifts may lie, I encourage you to explore them further so that you might better discern where you might represent Christ and His Church; bear witness to Him wherever you may be and, according to the gifts given to you, carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world. If that discernment guides you to seeking how you might be able to serve in some capacity here at Grace Church, please, reach out to myself or Fr. Joe so we can explore that with you.



Tell Out My Soul

A Few Words About Pledging as a Part of Our Stewardship Journey

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. Stewardship is a way of life.

What Does it Mean to Make a pledge?

Faithful stewardship is a commitment to manage one's time, talents, or money as an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity. An annual pledge represents a monetary commitment to help Grace to fund ministry and church operations, based in the faith that guides your stewardship of all your resources. A pledge is a statement of intent, not a legal obligation. It can be changed at any time.

Pledging is More Than Money!

We believe that stewardship is more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission.

For example:

Time: Attending church services, praying, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends.

Talents: Using our skills to help others, whether through our work, hobbies, or other activities.

Treasure: Tithing, donating to charities, and investing wisely.

Blessings,
Beth Kang
Stewardship Committee Chair

Sharing the Good News: An Easter Reflection

Did you ever have news that was so exciting, so important, so urgent, that you could not wait to share it? Imagine the spice-bearing women who encounter the Angels at the empty tomb learning that it was all true - everything that Jesus had told them would happen had, indeed, happened. They rushed from what had been a moment of ritual grief and mourning and ran to tell the other followers of Jesus what they had witnessed.

Easter gives us a whole year's worth of joy and light and excitement in one glorious moment. As we hear the triple Alleluia for the first time, the spark is ignited within us, and our souls are alight with the need to share this joy with others. Smiles are broad and handshakes are enthusiastic on Easter Sunday in church.

This is the exact spirit which we carry with us all year that inspires us to share not only the Good News, but also the ways in which our lives have been transformed by God's blessings. We share our time, talent, and treasure freely because of the love we have experienced in redemption and in the death-defying power of Jesus and his ministry in the world. Such an enthusiasm cannot be contained, it must be recounted. Like Peter, who was skeptical when the women came to tell him of the Resurrection, others might wonder what has gotten into us: why we are so willing to release our gifts into the world rather than safeguard them in a tomb. But we who have experienced the destruction of darkness and the return of the light will know why we do what we do. It is a story we will rush to share with the world.

~Cn. J. Davey Gerhard
Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and reminds us that planned giving is the perfect way to ensure that an inheritance is not squandered.

Altar Flowers

04-May

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Barlett in memory of Mr. & Mrs. George Barlet, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ouren and Leonard Barlet, Agnes Lett, Landree Heese, Dwan Young, and Karen Rouse

11-May

Henry & Heather Stout, Kloe, Hadlee, and Carter in memory of Dr. Robert & Ann Carter, Eric, Betty, and Tom Carpenter, Robert and Kathleen Carter

11-May

John Mayes in loving memory of Roy Mayes, Jr.

18-May

Debbie Putnam, Bill & Cindy Putnam in memory of Joan & William Putnam Sr., Barbara Putnam, and Harry Putnam

25-May

Mr. & Mrs. Norman (Jim) Creighton in loving memory of John Finnegan, Gale & Norm, Elizabeth & James, Sudie-Belle & Jack, Edwina & Rodney, Effie & Mont, Harriet & Edwin.

Birthdays

01 Dustin Chapman, Pamela Lopez, Milan Leon, Kinsley Wakefield

02 Kelsey Baucom & Matt Goolsby

05 Paula Brooks

07 Sally Clapper

08 Biffie Creighton & Spencer Orr

09 Mary Riley

11 Andrea Mountjoy & Dee Moss

12 Paul Daugherty

14 Josh Slates

15 Izaiah Hill & Jessica Slates

16 Patrick Batchelder

16 Monica Wright

20 Frank Lane, Shawnda Eley,

Aliyah Hill & Ruth Campbell

21 Sandy Jones & Denise Hamar

22 Reese Taylor

23 Carol Stark

26 Mark Baucom

29 Harlow Phelps

30 Diann Scorse, Sarah Evans,

Alana Harris & Sammy Hess

31 Regina Newport & Lindsey

Tidball

Anniversaries

02 Jim & Biffie Creighton

06 Jason & Lindsey Hettinger

08 Martin & Rebecca Escobar

13 Bill & Lora Phelps

15 Mark & Stephanie Williams

17 Jay & Erin Thompson

19 Jeb & Elizabeth Cook,

Gabriel & Elizabeth Speck

20 Josh & Melissa Slates

21 Mike & Pam Robertson

22 Dustin & Stacey Chapman

23 Kirby & Regina Newport

26 Mike & Kirsten Saiz

29 Andy & Sabrina Lynch

30 Ben & Robin Blair,

Jory & Brianna Mertens,

Sean & Savannah Weber

No Mass—Clergy in KCMO

Friday, May 02

Saturday, May 03

Graduating Senior Recognition & Youth Sunday

Sunday May 4th is the Sunday Grace Church dedicates to recognizing the achievements of those students graduating from High School (and/or higher education/trade school) and we invite Youth to participate in more roles in the service at our 10:30am Mass. All services that occur on this weekend will have all loose offerings dedicated to our "Youth Travel Fund" which aids in providing a means for our youth to travel on pilgrimage to places of spiritual/religious/or biblical significance every few years. Please notify the church office if you or anyone in your household has or are a graduating senior that we may recognize Sunday, May 4th.

Men of Grace

Saturday, May 03, 9:00 am

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 am

Happy Bottoms Donations

St. Martha's Guild is collecting new packages of diapers for families in need. Collection Bin conveniently located for you in the parish house!

Lunches of Love—Sign Up to Help!

Program provides food for families in our area when our local school district lunch service ends, essentially filling the gap in food service between Summer School ending and the new School Year beginning. Students take home bags of food given out at Grace Church. Last year 400 meals were distributed each week with minimal publicity. This year the program anticipates providing additional publicity to students before the school year ends, likely increasing the amount of meals per week distributed. Helpers to pack bags and distribute food are requested. Sign ups in Parish House.

New Adult Formation Class:

Exploring the Way – Christianity through the Episcopal Lens

Begins Sunday, June 1st at 9:30am | Grace Episcopal Church | Between Morning Services

Are you new to Grace? Curious about the Episcopal Church? Or just ready to deepen your understanding of the Christian faith? Join us for *Exploring the Way*, a 6-week adult formation class that journeys through the core of Christian belief and practice—through the unique and beautiful lens of the Episcopal tradition. Each Sunday morning, we'll gather for 45 minutes of conversation, reflection, and discovery. Together, we'll explore Scripture, worship, sacraments, prayer, and how to live a faithful life in today's world. This class is ideal for anyone wanting a spiritual refresher.

Come with your questions. Leave with deeper faith. All are welcome.

To enroll, please sign up in the Parish House or email Fr. Joe Pierjok at priest@gracecarthage.com.

Thank you for your Generosity & Care

A heartfelt thank you to Richard Hodkins and his crew for their excellent work in repairing the northwest corner of the parking lot retaining wall in front of the church, which was damaged after a recent car accident. This important repair was made possible by the generous support of two parishioners. We are deeply grateful for your continued love, dedication, and support of Grace Episcopal Church.

Thank you for a delightful Holy Week

To all the sacristans, servers, readers, guest preachers, and chefs extraordinaire—thank you for making our worship and fellowship time together so very meaningful!

Parish Prayer List

St. Luke's:

Tom Huntley
Paula Windham

Oak Pointe:

Lida McCulloch

Moberly:

Eric Adams

College View:

Roger & Sherrie
Stinnett

OKC:

Kay Graham

Good Shepherd:

Edith Walters

Foxberry Terrace:

Connie Moss

Parishioners:

Mary Beimdiek
Susie Bewick
Tom Flanigan
Marilyn Kelley
Frank Lane
Barbara Mountjoy
Amanda Smith
Mike Thompson
Steve Wampler
Bill Wilson

Current Requests:

Jeanne Atwell
Garvin Dunaway
Scott Goade
Jim Hunter
Emily Jenkins
Cheryl Matthews
Gene Mitchell
Jane Mitchell
Celia Osier
Janice Silvers
Flora Smallwood
Ayshia Smith
Michael Speck

Current Requests:

Doug Studyvin
Tom Swarens
Jeremey
Matthew

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

04: Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Kansas City

11: Episcopal Diocese of
Texas, Austin, TX

18: Episcopal Diocese of
Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

25: Episcopal Diocese of
Dallas, Dallas, TX

All Sundays:

St. Nicholas Noel; St.
Andrew's Maracabee Haiti;
Jory Mertens our Seminarian;
Bishop Diocesan Amy Meaux

Dearly Departed:

Fr. John W. Biggs: 17-April
Maynard Mitchell: 21-April

Military & First Responders:

Knox Dunaway
Will Flanigan
Gary Kalinosky
Tanner Marney
Chris Orr
Anastasia Painter
Dmytro Repytski
Steven Sample
Justin Slates
Nic Smith
Ian Stinnett
Chase Taylor

Vestry Members

Class of 2026: Jeanie Slates (*Sr. Warden*), Andy Lynch, Elaine Wurst (*Clerk*), Mike Robertson

Class of 2027: Ben Blair (*Jr. Warden*), Chuck Edds, Gloria Gubser, Alyssa Hess

Class of 2028: Clifton Kester, Jennifer Rhymer, Amanda Smith, Michelle Theerman

136th Diocesan Convention Delegates

Julie Anderson, Gloria Gubser,
Mark Jones, Andy Lynch,
Debby Orr,

Spencer Orr, Jennifer Rhymer,
Elisa White & Zelma Watts
Alternates: Leo Baird, Leigh
Salter & Sally Stuart

Gift Shop Hours

Thurs. 12:00 pm—5:00 pm
Sunday Mornings, & via
appointment

Newsletter Mailing List

If you would like to opt-out of
receiving a paper newsletter,
please let us know by calling
the church office or emailing
admin@gracecarthage.com
with an opt-out request.

Ministers of Worship

Fri., May 02

10:00 am

No Service – Clergy in Kansas City meeting with Presiding Bishop- The Most Reverend Sean Rowe.

Sat., May 03

9:00 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5:00 pm

No Service – Clergy in Kansas City for the Ordination & Consecration of IX Bishop of West Missouri, Amy Meaux

Sun., May 04—Youth!

8:00 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am (Youth Sunday)

OT: Sammy Hess

NT & Prayers : Alana Harris

Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Cross: Owen Hess

Torches: Elizabeth Frink & Peyton Lynch

Server: Connor Wilkowski

Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White

Sacristan & AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Allie & Brooklyn Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Wed., May 07

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: A.J. Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., May 09

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., May 10

9:00 am

Sacristan: All Clean

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., May 11

8:00 am

Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT & Chalice: Nic Smith

Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke

Server: Brooklyn Rhymer

Acolyte Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris

Ushers: Steve Erwin & Max Hill

Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

Wed., May 14

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Ministers of Worship

Fri., May 16

10:00 am

Reader: Leigh Salyer

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., May 17

9:00 am

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., May 18

8:00 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers: Clergy

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT & Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers & Chalice: Larry Hartman

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Lincoln & Barrett Cook

Server: Alana Harris

Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Chris & Spencer Orr

Flower Delivery: Cathy Thompson

Wed., May 21

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., May 23

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., May 24

9:00 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5:00 pm

Reader: Chuck Edds

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., May 25

8:00 am

Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Clergy

10:30 am

OT: Leigh Salyer

NT: Michelle Theerman

Chalice: Jennifer Rhymer

Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch

Cross: Peyton Lynch

Torches: Walker Lasley & Carson Stremke

Server: Trenton Lynch

Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Open

Wed., May 28

6:00 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., May 30

10:00 am

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., May 31

9:00 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Daily Readings in May 2025

Thursday, May 01: Isaiah 30:18-21; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; John 14:6-14

Friday, May 02: Daniel 3:1-18; 1 John 3:1-10; Luke 3:15-22

Saturday, May 03: Daniel 3:19-30; 1 John 3:11-18; Luke 4:1-13

May 04: The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6(7-20); Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Monday, May 05: Daniel 4:19-27; 1 John 3:19-4:6; Luke 4:14-30

Tuesday, May 06: Daniel 4:28-37; 1 John 4:7-21; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday, May 07: Daniel 5:1-12; 1 John 5:1-12; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, May 08: Daniel 5:13-30; 1 John 5:13-20[21]; Luke 5:1-11

Friday, May 09: Daniel 6:1-15; 2 John 1-13; Luke 5:12-26

Saturday, May 10: Daniel 6:16-28; 3 John 1-15; Luke 5:27-39

May 11: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Monday, May 12: Wisdom 1:16-2:11, 21-24; Colossians. 1:1-14; Luke 6:1-11

Tuesday, May 13: Wisdom 3:1-9; Colossians 1:15-23; Luke 6:12-26

Wednesday, May 14: Wisdom 4:16-5:8; Colossians 1:24-27; Luke 6:27-38

Thursday, May 15: Wisdom 5:9-23; Colossians 2:8-23; Luke 6:39-49

Friday, May 16: Wisdom 6:12-23; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 7:1-17

Saturday, May 17: Wisdom 7:1-14; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 7:18-35

May 18: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 2:1-6; John 13:31-35

Monday, May 19: Wisdom 9:1,7-18; Colossians 3:18-4:1-18; Luke 7:36-50

Tuesday, May 20: Wisdom 10:1-21; Romans 12:1-21; Luke 8:1-15

Wednesday, May 21: Wisdom 13:1-9; Romans 13:1-14; Luke 8:16-35

Thursday, May 22: Wisdom 14:27-15; Romans 14:1-12; Luke 8:26-39

Friday, May 23: Wisdom 16:15-17:1; Romans 14:13-23; Luke 8:40-56

Saturday, May 24: Wisdom 19:1-8, 18-22; Romans 15:1-13; Luke 9:1-17

May 25: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 4:1-9

Monday, May 26: Deuteronomy 8:1-10; James 1:1-15; Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday, May 27: Deuteronomy 8:11-20; James 1:16-27; Luke 11:1-13

Wednesday, May 28: Baruch 3:24-37; James 5:13-18; Luke 12:22-31

Thursday, May 29: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 30: Ezekiel 1:28-3:3; Hebrews 4:14-4:6; Luke 9:28-36

Saturday, May 31: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Romans 12:9-16b; Luke 1:39-57

