

Spring 2020




The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



Praying and Preparing for Lent



So, what is this Season of Lent and what are we called to do at that time? Lent is a time for preparation, that is, our preparation for the trial and crucifixion of our Lord and Savior. Ultimately, this leads us to the good news of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This may seem a bit heavy. And it is. The Season of Lent is a serious time, a pious time, a time for deep reflection and prayer. Therefore, we have some special events planned for you to include a three-week Adult Education class (revealing things you may not know about the Bible). Second, we have set aside several weeks for *Stations of the Cross* and walking our sacred labyrinth. Third, you can look forward to some special music and worship services such as the Great Litany. Please look closely at our Master Calendar for specific dates and times.

God Bless you as we move forward into the Season of Lent.

Fr. Chip

A Lenten Prayer

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give. - Author Unknown

Vision Planning – Moving Forward

We have now had a few monthly meetings to begin planning our future. We've had a great turnout and have heard from many members. Several themes have emerged. First, our members want to continue to build upon the notion of community at Grace Church, social gathering opportunities to be with one another in church, and outside of a formal worship setting also. Therefore, we are brainstorming of ways to be together during the week.

Another theme included this notion of desiring more 'spirituality' in life, feeling and experiencing the Holy in our lives. For some it could be worship. For others it's music. For still others it may be prayer. I invite our members to contemplate ways to heighten our spiritual connection to God. Stay tuned.

A special thanks to the Diocese of New York for supporting these efforts, especially Canon Victor Conrado and Bishop Shinn, who are coming to show their support in our meetings. Stay tuned for more vision, more planning and moving forward in the good news of Jesus Christ.



Grace La Gracia Bulletin Calendar March – June 2020

- Weekly Tuesdays & Thursday at Noon – The Holy Eucharist in Chapel**
Wednesdays at 12:10 PM DTM at Grace 9/18/19 through 5/ 27/20
- (No DTM concerts on 1/1/20 or 2/26/20 Ash Wednesday)
- Wednesdays at 1:30 PM SAGE Meeting – Library 10/2/19 through 6/3/20**
Wednesdays at 7:15 PM BSF Study – Library
Wednesdays at 3PM to 6PM Ada’s Outreach – Parish Hall 9/18/19 to 6/24/20
Thursdays at 7:30 PM – La Gracia Santa Eucharistia
1st & 3rd Tuesday of Every Month at 7:30 PM La Gracia Leaders Meeting – Church & Library
4th Tuesday of Every Month – Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM in the library
2nd Sunday of Every Month Rite One Liturgy at 8 AM Service
- 3rd Sunday of Every Month - Family Service at 10:00 AM**
4th Sunday of Every Month – Healing Service
-

March 2020

- Every Friday in March at 7:30 PM La Gracia Estación del Via Crucis

Sunday, March 1st The First Sunday in Lent- The Great Litany

- 8:00 AM & 10 AM Rite Two Liturgy & 12:30 La Gracia
- 11:30 AM Teacher’s Meeting – Library
- 4:30 PM DTM Concert Church from 3PM & Parish Hall from 4:30 (Reception)

Monday, March 2nd to Friday, March 6th

- Fr. Adolfo on vacation

Sunday, March 8th The Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy/ 12:30 PM – Fr. Adolfo all three services
- Sign up Parishioners for Passion Play after services
- 11:15 AM “Making Sense of the Bible” Things you never knew- FR. Chip in Parish Hall after Service

Monday, March 9th

- 7 PM Vision Planning – Library with Fr. Chip

Saturday, March 14th

- St. Patrick’s Day Parade in City of WP / Street Closures

Sunday, March 15th The Third Sunday of Lent St. Pat's Sunday: Green Out / Rite 13 Service

- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting - Library
- Fx3 Meeting after 10 AM Service – Library
- 11:15 AM “Making Sense of the Bible” Things you never knew- FR. Chip in Parish Hall after Service
- Angelus Deadline for all submissions

Monday, March 16th

- 6:30 PM Walk the Labyrinth- Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 19th

- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 1:PM – Library

Sunday, March 22nd The Fourth Sunday of Lent

- Completed Contribution Forms for Book of Wisdom! Donna Louis
- 11:15 AM “Making Sense of the Bible” Things you never knew. FR. Chip in Parish Hall after Service
- 11:30 AM Rite 13 – Shop & Assemble Easter Baskets for ECW Raffle
- 4:00 PM ECW Movie Afternoon – Parish Hall

Monday, March 23rd

- 6:30 PM Walk the Labyrinth- Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 24th

- Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM – Library

Saturday, March 28th – Parish Hall Rental – 4PM to 10PM

Sunday March 29th The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- Rite 13 Celebration at 10 AM Service
- ECW Selling Spring Raffle Tickets during Coffee Hour
- Preparing for Easter! Spring Parish Clean up – Volunteer's Needed

April 2020

Monday, April 3rd

- 6:30 PM Walk the Labyrinth- Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross



Holy Week

Sunday, April 5th

- **Palm Sunday 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palm**
- **Passion Play at 10 AM Service**
- **10:00 AM Sunday School Palm Sunday Procession, No Classes**
- **Gathering at Renaissance Park (adjacent to Grace - Call Steven Botundo at Capellini's office)**
- **12:30 La Gracia La Santa Eucaristía y Domingo de Ramos – Need Library to set up for luncheon**

Thursday, April 9th

- **Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Bilingual Service with Choir**

Friday, April 10th - Good Friday

- **4:00 PM Stations of The Cross**
- **Good Friday Liturgy 12:00 PM (Noon) with Choir**
- **7:00 PM La Gracia Viernes Santo**

Saturday, April 11th

- **7:00 PM Easter Vigil / Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil of Easter – Bilingual Service with Choir**
- **Community Easter Dinner Ada Raiford Hosted by Samaritan House**

Sunday, April 12th Easter

- **8 AM Holy Eucharist**
- **10:00 AM Festive Holy Eucharist with Choir**
- **No Classes Sunday School, Rite 13 & J2A**
- **ECW Easter Basket Drawing during Coffee Hour**
- **12:30 PM La Gracia Domingo de Pascua Misa - Need library during the morning for Lunch Set Up– Parish Hall (1PM to 5PM)**

Monday, April 13th

- **Parish Office Closed**
(Following Easter Sunday)
- **Fr. Chip out of Office until Friday, April 7th**
- **Fr. Adolfo out of the office 13th to April 19**

Sunday, April 19th 2nd Sunday of Easter

8 AM & 10 AM Fr. Chip Instructional Eucharist

- 10 :00 AM to 3:00 PM Directory Photos of Congregation - M. Heffner
- 11:30 AM Recognition of Maria Campos During coffee hour
- 12:30 PM La Gracia The Festival of Divine Mercy (Parish Hall 1PM to 5PM)
- 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Directory Photos of Congregation to be Taken – Michael Heffner
- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting – Library
- 12:30 PM Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia – Need library during morning for set -up- Parish Hall 1PM to 5PM

Monday, April 20th

- **Vision Planning Meeting with Bishop Shin - Library**

Wednesday, April 22nd

- 1:30 PM DTM Ex Board Meeting – Library

Thursday, April 23rd

- Oasis of Hope Gala - LUW

Sunday, April 26th 3rd Sunday of Easter

- 10 :00 AM to 3:00 PM Directory Photos of Congregation - M. Heffner
- Insert Episcopal Charities Letter and Envelopes in Both Bulletins
- 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Directory Photos of Congregation to be Taken – Michael Heffner
- 12:30 PM La Gracia “Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia”

• **4:30 PM DTM Concert Church from 3PM & Parish Hall from 4:30 (Reception)**

Tuesday, April 28th

- Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM – Library
- 12:30 PM La Gracia Domingo de Pascua Misa en español

May 2020

Sunday, May 3rd

- **8:00 AM & 10 Am Rite Two Liturgy, 12:30 PM La Gracia**
- 4th Sunday of Easter
- Post Sign Up Sheet & Announcement for Memorial Day Volunteers

Sunday, May 10th

- **8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy**
- Mother’s Day Breakfast 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM – Men of Grace Host Event (Leader TBD)
- Mother’s Day and Episcopal Charities Sunday
- 12:30 La Gracia Día de las Madres – Need library for set up in the morning – Parish Hall 1PM to 5PM

Wednesday, May 13th

- 1:30 PM DTM Ex. Board Meeting – Library

Friday, May 15th

- Angelus Deadline for all submissions

Sunday, May 17th

- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting - Library
- Fx3 Meeting after 10 AM Service- Library

Sunday, May 24th – Fr. Adolfo – Celebrating All Three Services

- 12:30 PM La Gracia- First Communions TBD
- No Nursery Care until Sept 7th

Monday, May 25th

- Memorial Day Luncheon for Grace's Kitchen Hosted by Grace Volunteers
- Memorial Day – Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26th

- 7:00 PM Mutual Vestry Review

Sunday, May 31st Fr. Chip Celebrating all three services

- **The Day of Pentecost or Whitsunday is the last day the choir will perform.** The choir will resume in Sept. 2020. (P. Roberts)
- **12:30 PM Service La Gracia First Communions TBD**
- Last Coffee Hour Hosted by Welcoming Committee
- La Gracia Dia de la Virgen de Copacabana y Día de la Madres

June 2020

Sunday, June 7th Trinity Sunday Fr. Chip Celebrating all three services


- The Feast of Pentecost Wear Red at 8 AM & 10 AM Services
- Sunday School, Rite 13 & J2A Last Classes – End of Year Class Celebrations
- Last Sunday for Choir
- Post LUW Swimsuit Drive Announcements in all Media
- 12:30 PM La Gracia Fiesta de la Virgen de Copacabana

Monday, June 13th

- F. Chip Vacation 13 -15th

Sunday, June 14th

- **8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy- Fr. Adolfo all three services**
- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting - Library
- 10:00 AM ALL in church –Sunday School Recognition/Grad Awards
- 10:00 AM St. Nicholas Choir
- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting – Library
- 10:00 AM Family Service - ALL in Church
- ECW Father's Day Breakfast and Coffee Hour

- 
- La Gracia Needs Library in the morning for set up in Parish hall all afternoon after 1PM
- Sunday, June 28th**

- La Gracia Independencia Perú / Special Service TBD

Summer 2020

- Fx3 Family Volunteer Project (TBD) Amy Owens

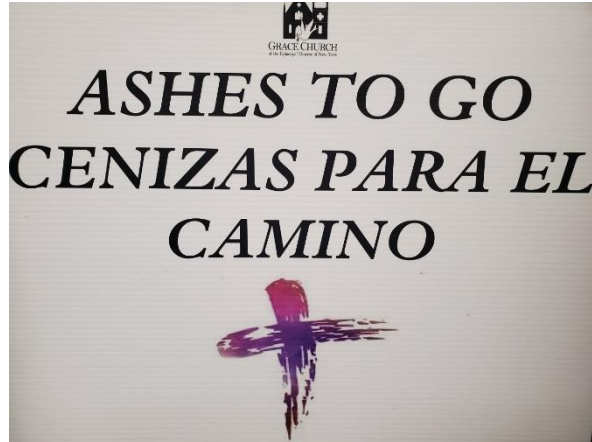
Good things at Grace Church

- We have developed several new Fun Community Events at Grace Church such as Green Sunday (hope you like green shirts, green cake and beverage), helping us celebrate St. Pat's Day.
- We are contemplating the return of a summertime Grace Church tradition, a dinner cruise for all members.
- There are now over 300 new people watching our weekly worship services through our new Facebook video service
- We have several new families pledging to financially support Grace la Gracia.
- We are developing an enhanced Sunday School experience.
- We are continuing to support several projects in Advocacy.
- We are developing a new weekly 5PM Sunday worship called Jazz Church, enveloping the beautiful New Zealand Prayer Book liturgy and set to Jazz Music. We hope to begin this spring. This thought originally came from a similar service developed at the National Cathedral in Washington DC. Stay tuned.

***The Deadline For The Summer Angelus
Is May 15th. As Always, Thank You For
Your Contributions!***

ASHES TO GO AT THE WHITE PLAINS TRAIN STATION

By: Adolfo Moronta



During Ash Wednesday I was personally blessed for the third year in a row to be able to offer “Ashes to Go” at the train station from 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM and from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. This year I had the opportunity to pray, talk and offer ashes to more than 180 people.

I had people who told me “I am not Episcopalian but you can pray for me.” There was also a Jewish man who asked me about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent. I explained to him that “Lent is a 40-day season marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, conversion; where one gets to reflect on his or her life and begin making positive changes while also moving apart from sinful ways.” To my surprise he responded: “then Lent should not be just 40 days, it should be at least 9 months.”

From all my interactions with the people at the train station I can honestly say that there is a hunger out there for God, therefore we need to go out and take the church to the people wherever they may be.





STEWARDSHIP

The Vestry and Stewardship Committee wishes to thank all parishioners who pledged and contributed their time, talent and fortune in 2019. End of the year financial statements have been distributed. If you have not received yours or have questions please speak to Charlotte Roberson, Cynthia S. Brown or Daisy Calderon after church service. You may also contact Maria Romeo, bookkeeper of Grace/LaGracia Church on a Wednesday or Thursday. If you did not complete your pledge for 2019 you may still do so. Please put your check in an envelope with your pledge number and mark it 2019 pledge.

We are running a year-round stewardship pledge season. We began our pledge season in September with post-it-notes and “Conversations of Grace” during the coffee hour. We have continued with “A Stewardship Minute” each Sunday during November. The youth and J2A wrote stewardship prayers. Two students wrote and delivered a sermon. The youth choir participated in a “Shadow Screen Presentation” under the direction of Peter Roberts. Father Chip and Father Moronta delivered sermons on “Being a good steward”. Pledge Sunday was on Sunday, November 17th. We welcome additional pledges for 2020.

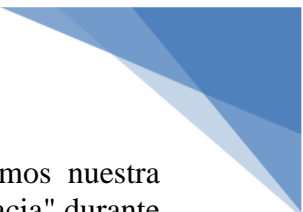
We will have parking permits for pledging parishioners for free parking on Holy Days that do not fall on a Sunday. Please speak to Charlotte Roberson, Chairperson or Cynthia S. Brown, Co-Chairperson to obtain a parking permit. The 2020 parking permits can be used in the municipal parking lot across the street on the following days:

February 26th Ash Wednesday
Maundy Thursday April 9th
April 10th Good Friday
April 11th Holy Saturday
December 24th Christmas Eve (Thursday)
December 25th Christmas Day (Friday)

Charlotte Roberson

MAYORDOMIA

La Junta y el Comité de Mayordomía desean agradecer a todos los feligreses que se comprometieron y contribuyeron con su tiempo, talento y dinero en 2019. Se han distribuido los estados financieros de fin de año. Si no ha recibido el suyo o tiene preguntas, hable con Charlotte Roberson, Cynthia S. Brown o Daisy Calderón después del servicio religioso. También puede comunicarse con Maria Romeo, contable de la Iglesia Grace / La Gracia un miércoles o jueves. Si no completó su promesa para 2019, aún puede hacerlo. Por favor ponga su cheque en un sobre con su número de promesa y márkelo como promesa de 2019.



Estamos llevando a cabo una campaña de promesa por todo el año. Comenzamos nuestra temporada de promesas en septiembre con notas adhesivas y "Conversaciones de Gracia" durante la hora del café. Hemos continuado con "Un minuto de mayordomía" cada domingo durante noviembre. Los jóvenes y J2A escribieron oraciones de mayordomía; Dos estudiantes escribieron y pronunciaron un sermón: el coro juvenil participó en una "Presentación de pantalla de sombra" bajo la dirección de Peter Roberts. El padre Chip y el padre Moronta pronunciaron sermones sobre "Ser un buen Mayordomo". El Domingo de Promesas fue el 17 de noviembre. Damos la bienvenida a promesas adicionales para 2020.

Tendremos permisos de estacionamiento para los feligreses que tiene sus promesas estacionamiento gratis en los días santos que no caen en domingo. Hable con Charlotte Roberson, Presidenta o Cynthia S. Brown, Copresidenta para obtener un permiso de estacionamiento. Los permisos de estacionamiento 2020 se pueden usar en el estacionamiento municipal al otro lado de la calle en los siguientes días:

26 de febrero Miércoles de Ceniza
Jueves Santo 9 de abril
10 de abril Viernes Santo
11 de abril Sábado Santo
24 de diciembre Nochebuena (jueves)
25 de diciembre día de Navidad (viernes)

Charlotte Roberson

The Angelus
Quarterly Newsletter
of Grace Church/La Gracia
(914) 949-2874
www.gracewhiteplains.org

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Editors: Mary Baker and Michael Heffner

Contributors: Daisy Calderon, Melanie Jackson, Karen Odom, Mary Baker, Patricia Bazan, George O'Hanlon, Michael Heffner, Nikolas O'Hanlon, The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves, Charlotte Roberson, The Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Distributor: Maria Campos

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a very busy quarter for our Sunday schoolers, teachers and parents.



In what can only be described as a highlight, our Sunday children of all ages put on a memorable Christmas Pageant this past December 24th. 20 of our children retold the story of the birth of Christ through song, dialogue and narration, ably assisted by our J2A and Rite 13 staffers, who ensured that our angels, shepherds, wise men, townspeople, and Mary and Joseph remained on track. The audience, the largest in recent memory, clearly enjoyed the event and clapped loudly as our players concluded a joyful evening with a rousing chorus of “Go Tell it On the Mountain.” Special thanks to Peter Roberts and Abigail Fisher, whose piano and cello ably complemented our children’s singing, as well as our dedicated Sunday school teachers. The shadow screen was also a welcome addition to the evening’s festivities. Michael Heffner and I look forward to an even better performance next year!

We continue to draw dividends from the fall bread baking event. The Sunday school has become so efficient at the bread baking process, that we were able to freeze some of last fall’s bread baking bounty, and are now able to unfreeze and use it periodically in the current year.



We held two important Sunday School meetings in the past quarter, to ensure that the program is properly linked to the broader Grace Church community. On January 5th we met with Father Chip to review the overall program and discuss ideas for improving the program. And on January 19th, we

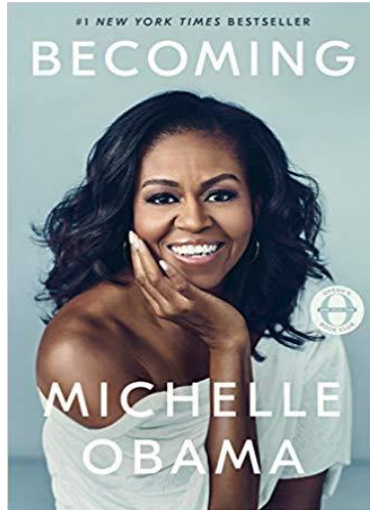
held a meeting with the Sunday School program parents for their input and to explain our program to them. Our objectives in both meetings were to continually assess our program and adjust where it makes sense to do so, obtain valuable input from our parishioner parents and broader Grace Church community, and explain the goals and activities of our program. We will plan to hold these meetings on a regular basis.

We have many activities ongoing or on our coming calendar for this quarter, in addition to our normal Sunday School class sessions. Our Rite 13 Celebrities are busily preparing for the annual Celebration of Adulthood Ceremony to take place later in March. Our J2A members are experimenting with a new meeting time of a monthly Sunday evening gathering, since meeting during the normal Church Service was creating schedule conflicts. We are proud that many of our Sunday School members actively participate in a variety of service activities, be it serving as acolytes, lay readers, choir members, Grace Kitchen volunteers or ushers, among other activities.

Our program is open to all children up through high school, and we always welcome new children, so please have your children join us (or encourage someone you know to join us). Questions may be directed to Donna Louis, Michael Heffner or myself.

By George O'Hanlon

Grace Church Book Club



Join the Book Club in Our March Selection!

Join us in reading **Becoming**, our selection in honor of Women's History Month. Through Michelle Obama's memoir, we'll learn more about the details that shaped her life, leading her to become the first African American First Lady of the United States. Mark your calendars for our discussion on Tuesday, March 10, in the church library.


ALL THE GREATEST

By J. Edwin Hortell

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

God.....the greatest Lover

So loved.....the greatest degree



The world..... the greatest number
That He gave.....the greatest act
His only begotten Son.....the greatest gift
That whosoever.....the greatest invitation
Believes.....the greatest simplicity
In Him.....the greatest person
Shall not perish.....the greatest escape
But.....the greatest difference
Have.....the greatest certainty
Eternal life..... the greatest destiny

THE BIBLE EXPLAINED BY KIDS

In the past two issues, we have published some of the ways a group of children retold what they had learned about early Biblical history as recorded in the Old Testament. In this issue, those children explained what they had learned in the New Testament.

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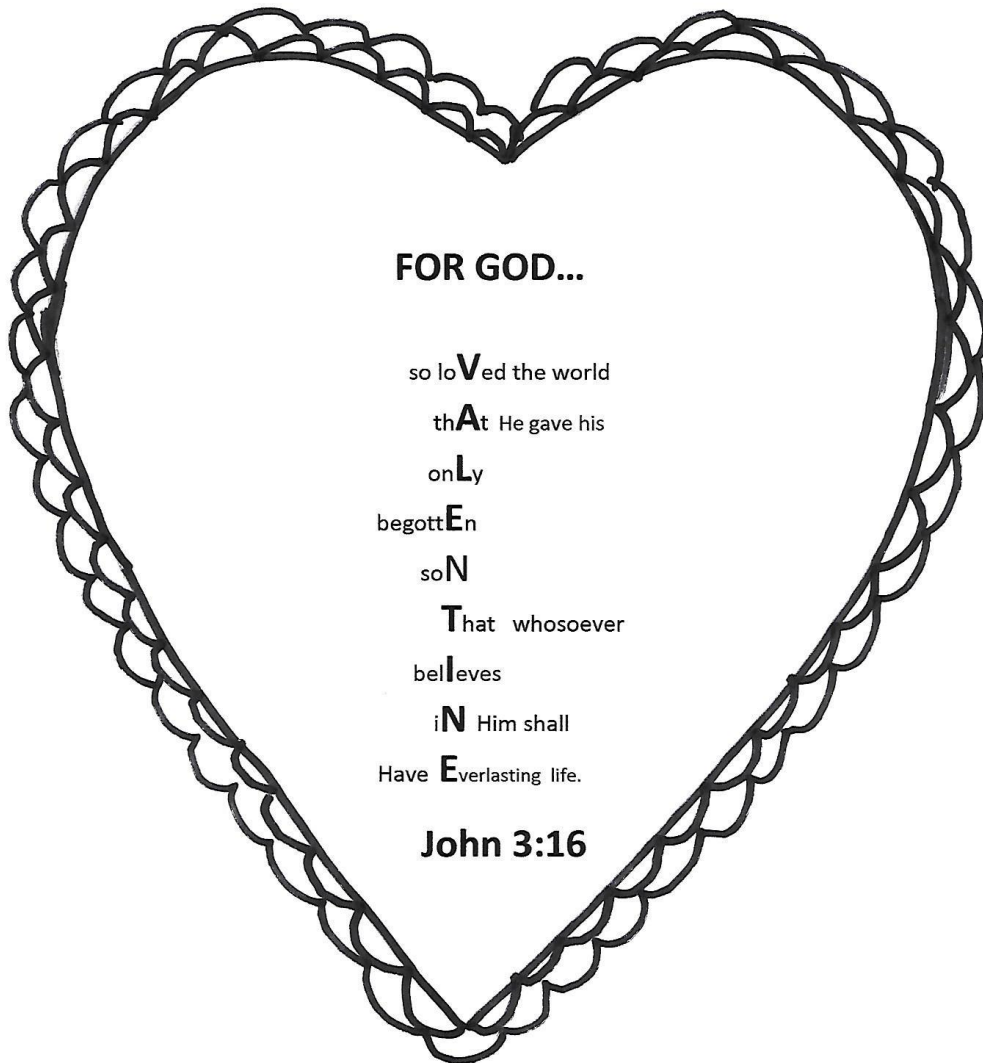
After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my Mom is always saying to me, ‘Close the door! Were you born in a barn? It would be nice to say, ‘As a matter of fact, I was.’)

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn’t stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven, but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

There! Now you understand!





A LOVE LETTER TO YOU FROM GOD

Dear Child of My Heart,

You are most precious to me. Others may often let you down. Others will fail to love you as you want to be loved. Others will grieve your soul.

But I will be there for you always! You can count on me – in big things and small things. I don't mind if you are not always strong. I will be your strength.

Others will never be able to know your thoughts, cares, and worries like I do. But let me be your strength. I am glad to do it because I love you completely.

I know you are not perfect. I know you are sorry you let me down. Keep coming to me anyway. I will help you to do better.

I will be there on your pathway through life. I've been with you a long time and, and, now that you are nearing the end of the road, I will hold your arm and guide you over the last few miles until we reach the heavenly gate.

Your friend,
GOD

EARTH DAY – APRIL 22

A Prayer for Stewardship of Creation

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer - page 259

Psalm 19: 1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
Yet their voice goes out through all the earth. And their words to the end of the world.



LETTER TO THE 8TH CHURCH IN REVELATION

By Mary Baker

With the new year, Father Chip has asked the congregation to join him in a process of discernment about what Grace Church means to us and about its mission here in White Plains. How can we carry out that mission? Are we meeting our goals? What are some ways that will equip us to be more successful? Monthly meetings are being held to discuss all these topics.

What comes to mind is the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation. This book of Revelation is the vision given by God to John while he was a prisoner in exile on the Greek island of Patmos.

In this vision, Jesus is holding 7 stars in His right hand and He is walking among 7 golden lampstands. Jesus explains that the 7 lampstands are the 7 churches that he is writing about and each church has an angel. He holds these stars in his hands, which implies complete control and authority over them. He begins a letter to each, and 5 of the 7 begin with “I know your deeds.”

These 7 churches form a clockwise circuit in western Asia Minor in what we call Turkey: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Ephesus, a commercial and cultural center like Washington D.C. or New York City, is commended for its hard work and perseverance, but admonished because its passion has cooled. They have “forsaken their first love” and “fallen from a great height.” They should rekindle their enthusiasm.

Smyrna, just north of Ephesus, was known as the “jewel of Asia.” God does not describe any problems they are having. However, they are a poor church, perhaps because of persecution. God wants them to “be strong” because, despite their poverty, “yet you are rich.”

Pergamum was Asia’s political capital and a center of pagan worship, where “Satan has his throne.” They are commended because they are remaining true to God, though that is very hard to do while being surrounded by a culture of sin. God reminds them to not give in to the sinful ways that surround them.

Thyatira, a small city, is a center of commerce on one of the Roman trade routes. It is commended for its love, faith, and growing service. They are reminded to not be led astray from this path.

Sardis is a church that Jesus has nothing good to say about. It is a church that once had a great reputation but now it is dead. They no longer have the enthusiasm and zeal they once had. They need to “wake up.”

Philadelphia, like Smyrna, seems to have no problems. It is a city plagued by earthquakes and natural disasters. It is a gateway to the east and its economy depends on trade since it is located on an imperial road. God commends them for their faithfulness and strength as they continue to face trials.

Laodicea, an opulent and prosperous city with a fine medical school, receives a very harsh evaluation. Unlike Sardis, which is “dead,” Laodicea is just as bad because it is “neither cold nor hot.” They are lukewarm, tepid. They think they are “rich” but, in actuality, they are “wretched, poor, blind, and naked.” God wants them to “repent” and be the zealous, fervent church He desires.

Three of the churches were reprimanded for their lackluster performance. Ephesus needs to recapture the zeal of its “first love.” Sardis is living on its past reputation and needs to “wake up.” Laodicea is the worst of the lot – neither hot nor cold – rich, but “wretched and poor.”

To each of these 7 churches, He ends with the same phrase – “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Lest any of the churches lose hope, they are reminded that “those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline.” And “to him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.”

God’s revelation to John in that cave in Patmos was not only meant for those 7 churches. It was meant to enlighten us today as we go through the months ahead of careful discernment concerning the mission of our church here in White Plains.

We can be sure that God “sees our deeds.” We can also be sure that God holds us in His hands with total control and authority as he did these 7 churches. We can also be sure that He loves us enough to want us to be the best we can be as we walk in His path.

We are now being called to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to our particular church. What if there were additional verses in Revelation 3 to an 8th church entitled “**To the church in White Plains?**”

Holy Week and Easter at Grace La Gracia 2020



April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion



**8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of
the Palms**

12:30 PM La Santa Eucaristía & Domingo de Ramos

April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Bilingual Holy Eucharist with Choir

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

4:00 PM Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

7:00 PM Viernes Santo / Viacrucis y Misa

April 11, 2020

**7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter-Bilingual
Service with Choir**

April 12, 2020

Easter Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Festival Holy Eucharist

12:30 PM Domingo de Resurrección Misa

April 19, 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM and 10 AM Holy Eucharist

12:30 PM Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia

THE SCHOOL OF LAY LEADERS OF LA GRACIA

By: Patricia Bazan


When Father Adolfo Moronta suggested to me to enroll in the School of Lay Leaders, I felt something special. It was just at the end of a beautiful retreat we had in La Gracia, which I had the privilege to attend. I couldn't help thinking about the significance that it contained.

I wondered what it meant to be a Lay Leader. For me, a new path to follow, a sacred adventure maybe ... The time had come for the leaders of La Gracia to actively develop our Faith. We began to study the best-selling book in history "The Bible" and we are also studying a book titled: "Jesus is Alive" written by the Rev. Emiliano Tardif.



Both readings complement each other to help us develop a spirit of service in Grace/ La Gracia. Every two weeks we enthusiastically attend these classes which are very interactive. All the participants contribute something to enrich our learning experience. We ask questions and we have open discussions. Rev. Adolfo is a great teacher, creative with his students. The common denominator is that we all have the desire to assimilate all the religious knowledge we can, in order to be prepared and to be able to fully fulfill God's plan for us.

Even though the classes will go on for a 12 month period, I feel my faith has been already renewed, strengthened and I am eager to share all that I am learning. I am convinced that God only knows His ways. I trust, like all my classmates, that the best lesson we have received is putting ourselves in His hands.



There are still many topics that will be covered, such as Church History, The Sacraments, Preaching, and Biblical Interpretation. We will also watch documentaries for certain topics and additionally guest speakers will be invited.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all those who have made this project come to life. Thanks a million to father Adolfo Moronta, who works very hard for his parishioners and many thanks to Grace/ La Gracia" of White Plains NY, which welcomes us.

ESCUELA DE SERVIDORES DE LA GRACIA

Por: Patricia Bazan

Cuando el sacerdote Adolfo Moronta, ministro latino De la Iglesia “La gracia” de White Plains, NY me comento sobre su plan para la escuela de liderazgo, no dude que asistiría. Sentí algo especial era justo al final de un hermoso retiro, al que tuve el privilegio de asistir. No podía evitar pensar en el significado que eso encerraba, me pregunte que significa ser Servidor De Dios? para mi, un camino nuevo que emprender, una aventura sagrada talvez...Había llegado el momento para un grupo de personas, que estábamos ahí de desarrollar activamente nuestra Fe, con eso en mente me enrolé.

Empezamos a estudiar el libro más vendido de la historia “La Biblia” Además estamos estudiando el libro “Jesús está vivo” escrito por el Rvdo. Emiliano Tardif, ambas lecturas se complementan para desarrollar un espíritu férreo de servicio, en los pupilos hispanos que asistimos entusiasmados, cada dos semanas a estas clases, que son interactivas llenas de devoción y hambre de aprendizaje. Todos aportamos algo, todos preguntamos, todos somos respondidos.

El padre es un buen maestro, didáctico creativo con sus alumnos, el común denominador es que, todos tenemos el deseo de asimilar conocimientos religiosos, para poder estar preparados y ser capaces de cumplir a cabalidad el plan que Dios tiene para nosotros, ciertamente al día de hoy que las clases todavía no han terminado siento mi Fe renovada, fortalecida y con ganas de ser proyectada, estoy convencida que los caminos del Señor solo El los sabe y confío, como todos mis compañeros de clase, que la mejor lección que hemos recibido es ponernos en sus manos.

Aun faltan muchos capítulos a desarrollar, como la historia De la Iglesia Episcopal, Los Sacramentos, Predicación, profundización bíblica e interpretación, veremos películas, tendremos participaciones externas y habrán novedades estimulantes para los Servidores, la idea es llegar al objetivo primordial, que es trabajar al servicio de Dios con temor a Dios, para la salvación personal y de sus hermanos, encomiable misión la que tenemos.



Finalmente, quiero expresar mis bendiciones a todos los que hacen que toda esta maravilla sea posible, gracias mil al padre Adolfo Moronta, que denota que está profundamente comprometido con sus feligreses, muchas gracias a la Iglesia Episcopal “La Gracia de White Plains NY, que nos acoge y muchos deseos de que su vida se mejore a través de la mano del Altísimo.

HEY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UTO?

- The United Thank Offering (UTO) was originally called the United Offering.
- The first United Offering was collected in 1889 by the Women’s Auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society. The first offering was \$2,188.64 and by 1928 the amount was \$1,101,450.40 collected from all dioceses and missionary districts.

- All women of the American Episcopal Church, not just Women's Auxiliary members contributed to the offering. The United Offering was used for the support and care of women involved in missionary work of the Episcopal Church through the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society.
- Individual women placed money in their in blue mite boxes throughout the year. Twice a year, in the Spring and Fall, the funds were collected and given to the Diocesan Women's Auxiliary Secretary. She deposited them into the bank to collect interest until they were presented at the Triennial meeting of the Women's Auxiliary which coincided with the General Convention.
- The Women's Auxiliary would undergo several transformations eventually becoming the organization known today as the Episcopal Church Women.
- The 1913 leaflet entitled, "What is the United Thank Offering?" describes a "Thank Offering of all our women, the expression of our gratitude for the Christian privileges which we enjoy; ... while it expresses our thankfulness, it also kindles our thankfulness." The UTO was also considered a "Gift of Substitution" made by the woman who could not partake in missionary work herself, but with "prayer and love and self-denial makes her gift, gathering little by little through the three years" a gift to be sent to women missionaries.

Today's United Thank Offering is a *ministry* which includes *all* members of the Episcopal Church. The focus remains on recognizing one's blessings every day, giving prayerful thanks for these blessings and putting an offering of thanks into our blue box. A coin or two a day. Our gifts enrich the lives of others by supporting mission and ministry here in the United States and throughout the world.

Blue UTO boxes are available in the back of the church. Our Spring offering will be collected on Sunday, May 24th during services.

Melanie Jackson

Welcoming the Challenge as I serve God

By: Daisy Calderon

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverb 3:5-6)

Grace Church/La Gracia is my spiritual home and refuge. There are so many blessings that have been sprinkled upon me here. These blessings will always be an integral part of my journey as they remind me of God's presence in my life.

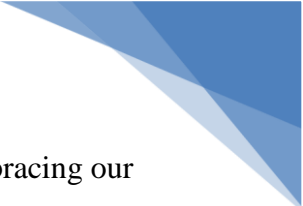


My leadership has evolved because I gave my life to God and have allowed him to mold me as he pleases, he is in control. God will always know where to take me next and where to lead my path.

Listening to God's direction brings me peace and comfort. My faith and love for God have blessed me as I continue to serve our unique, diverse and vibrant parish. At this moment and with God's guidance, I will continue my spiritual journey, by stepping out of my comfort zone and into the path he has chosen for me at our church.

Grace/La Gracia is a congregation that has 2 different cultures, and speaks 2 languages and is so blessed by its diversity in general. One of the initiatives and priorities I consider important for our parish is to become more connected as the church community that we are. We need to find ways to keep an open dialogue and to engage in more frequent conversations that unite us and help us to become a more connected parish.

Despite our differences the uniting force should always be God, we need to make him the center of our parish with each step and decision we make. He can and will bring us to where we should



be, a community united through him and by him; Open, loving, caring, spiritual, embracing our differences as we take on challenges great and small.

I am here for all, ready to start any conversations that can further strengthen us as a Christian community and as a parish family. I plan to participate in more 10am services and in more of the activities organized by Grace Church in general, so that I am accessible to all. Please stop me or reach out to me if there is anything in particular you wish to discuss, or if you have ideas/initiatives that you wish to share with me.

A sample of what will be submitted on a regular basis by the senior warden to the vestry.

Michael Heffner

February Meeting – Senior Warden

Just want to share that I am humbled with the support that I've been shown in taking on this new role at Grace/La Gracia. I trust that together we will accomplish much.

Advocacy –

Working with Daisy Calderon on bringing Father Luis Barrios back for a presentation in March/April.

Working with Katy Toolin on a film screening later this spring. Katy will have more details on the films and her meeting with Father Julian (who helped sponsor a screening in NYC) at a meeting we will be scheduling in March. The theme will be around immigration and migrant stories.

Will follow up with the church on Census 2020 (forms can be filled out starting on March 31.

Youth Education –

Linda Gallo has agreed to take on the position of Sunday School Director (from Donna Louis). We welcome her and thank her for stepping up.

Active Shooter –

Robert Soso has met with the White Plains Police representatives several times and expects to announce a date for a forum. This will take place in the parish hall. *After our meeting I reached out to Detective Joey Palmiotto from the White Plains Police Department. He works in the Crisis Prevention Special Unit. I have known him and his police squad for years they are highly trained professionals. I asked him if he or someone from his department would come and address our church congregation regarding an Active Shooter and Protecting Houses of Worship against Violence. I gave him two tentative dates in April and May. Detective Palmiotto assured me that he or someone from the department will assist and work with us. (Robert Soso)*

Building and Grounds –

Work funded by the grant from the Bedell Fund has begun on the Rectory (started on the 17th of February) and the Parish Hall (begun on Monday – will be completed by February 28).

Working with Father Adolfo and the B&G Committee to see if we can't have some of the work (painting, shelving, pew repair) needed in the church and office done through "in kind" donations of time and talent. Would assume that the project costs would be calculated and recorded as a component of La Gracia's annual stewardship.

Committee Assignments/Greeting Assignments -
(Verbal Discussion)



Lifting **Up** Westchester

GALA

Save The Date

Oasis of Hope

DINNER AND LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Rest in Peace



Verna Brown
