



**GRACE**  
Episcopal Church

February 2023

### Service Times

Holy Eucharist, Rite II on  
Sunday at 11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I on  
Wednesday at 7:30 am

Bible Study on  
Wednesday at 11:00 am

### THE MISSION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Gather in Christ, grow in  
faith, and love our  
neighbors*

### THE VISION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Be a home where people can  
connect with their faith,  
to be in harmony with self,  
others and God.*

# The Way

My dear People:

Greetings in Our Lord! I pray this finds you well. Much of February, it seems, might be one of the seasons of the Church that are a bit of a lull: Christmas has come and gone and we won't begin our great fast and preparation for Easter in Lent until the very end of the month when, on February 22nd, we celebrate Ash Wednesday. But there is one liturgical celebration on the Kalendar that we should stop and reflect on. On the 2nd of this month, we celebrate the feast of The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or as it's more commonly known Candlemas. This commemorates the moment, in S. Luke's Gospel, when, 40 days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus up to Jerusalem and to make an offering on his behalf. As the Book of Deuteronomy says "thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the womb; every firstling that is a male, which thou hast coming of a beast, shall be the LORD's." While in the Temple precincts, the Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna recognize and proclaim that Jesus is the Lord's Messiah, He is the light promised to the nations, the One who will dwell among God's People and bring all people to the worship of the Lord.



This is one of the more ancient of the Church's feasts. The fourth century pilgrim Egeria notes that in Jerusalem

"... certainly the Feast of the Purification is celebrated here with the greatest honour. On this day there is a procession to the Anastasis; all go in procession, and all

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## Contact Us

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Articles for the March 2023 edition of *The Way* are due to the office by Monday, February 20, 2023.

All articles should be emailed to the Parish Administrator at gracechurchsec@verizon.net.

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things are done in order with great joy, just as at Easter. All the priests preach, and also the bishop... And when all things have been celebrated in order as is customary, the sacrament is administered, and so the people are dismissed.

We needn't be surprised that in Jerusalem, the home of Mt. Zion and the site of the Lord's Temple, the early Church celebrated this feast with the same devotion as Easter. Remember that in Jesus's day, the light of the Lord's presence, His *shekinah* glory, dwelling between the two cherubim statues on top of the Ark of the Covenant, is gone. The faithful remnant of Israel eagerly awaited the return of the Lord to His sanctuary. So when the Simeon exclaims: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel" We should understand that the light to lighten the Gentiles which the Prophet refers to is the same light of God's presence. In Jesus, God has come back to His Temple, the Lord is with His People indeed!

One of the more creative ways that Christians have commemorated this special day is by having their candles (liturgical or otherwise) which represent Christ, the light of salvation to we who dwell in darkness, to be blessed for use in the year ahead. If you would like to have your candles blessed during this time, please let your priest know! He would be more than happy to provide this service.

But what about that "other" commemoration on this day? That much beloved Pennsylvania tradition of prognosticating rodents? What about Punxsutawney Phil (and Gus!)? What about Groundhog Day? Does it have some strange connection here? Oddly enough, yes! Candlemas is the final feast of the Church's Kalendar commemorating the events in the childhood of Jesus. It falls at a time when the seasons (and thereby the agricultural cycle) are in transition. We are slowly moving out of the winter months and beginning to look toward spring time and, perhaps more importantly for agrarian societies, including for the German immigrants who brought their prognostication traditions to this country, seed time. Traditions of

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## February 2023 Calendar

### February 1

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### February 5

11:00 am Worship  
Annual Meeting following  
the 11 am service

### February 8

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### February 12

11:00 am Worship  
ECW Meeting

### February 14

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

### February 15

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study  
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

### February 18

Italian Dinner  
4:30 to 7:00 pm

### February 19

Last Epiphany  
11:00 am Worship

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prognostication (weather prediction) often accompany these periods of transition in the seasons and call to mind the concerns of those who make their livelihood from working the soil. Prognostication, it is believed, determines whether or not the year may prove more fruitful than others, or whether work needed to be begun earlier than anticipated.



But what does that have to do with Candlemas? Or we who no longer find our lives determined by the cycle of the seasons? Well, we might think of it as commemorating a change of spiritual focus. Beginning with Advent, we've dedicated considerable devotional energy toward meditating on the events around Jesus' birth and infancy. Candlemas is the point where with one last hoorah we rejoice that God has returned and dwelt with His people. Now though, just as the seasons outside begin to change, we shift our focus toward what comes next in God's story of salvation: our long march toward Jerusalem with Jesus in Lent as He goes up to be betrayed, to suffer, die, and rise again for our redemption. In that case, let's keep both a happy Candlemas *and* Groundhog Day for both the truth revealed to us when the Holy Family journeys up to God's Temple, but also as we move toward entering the mystery of Our Lord's Pasch when all of Heaven and the redeemed Earth will greet Him with one great AMEN. Affectionately,

Your Friend and Pastor,

The Rev'd John M.W. Conner

## February 2023

### Calendar continued

#### February 22

Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Imposition of Ashes

12:00 pm Imposition of Ashes

Imposition of Ashes at Incarnation, Morrisville

7:00 pm

#### February 26

First Sunday in Lent

11:00 am Worship

## February 2023

### Kalendar and Intentions

#### February is the Month of the Holy Family

1. Feria..... Our Parish Vestry
2. The Presentation of O.L.J.C.
3. S. Blaise, Bp.&M
4. BVM on Saturday
5. **Ordinary Time V**..... Pro Populo
6. S. Paul Micki and Comps, Mm
7. Feria
8. S. Jerome Emiliani, .....Orphans/Children in Foster Care
9. Feria
- 10.S. Scholastica, V.
- 11.Our Lady of Lourdes
- 12.**Ordinary Time VI**..... Pro Populo
- 13.Feria.....Our Bishop
- 14.Ss. Cyril and Methodius
- 15.Feria
- 16.Feria
- 17.Seven Holy Founders
- 18.BVM on Saturday
- 19.**Ordinary Time VII**..... Pro Populo
- 20.Feria
- 21.S. Peter Damian, P.&D.
- 22.**Ash Wednesday** .....Confessors, Penitents
- 23.S. Polycarp, B.&M.
- 24.Friday after Ash Wednesday
- 25.Saturday after Ash Wednesday
- 26.**Lent I**..... Pro Populo
- 27.Lenten Feria
- 28.Lenten Feria

### Anglican Curiosities

*In some of the Kalendars in our Communion we also find being observed:*

February 13th: Absalom Jones, P.

February 15th: Thomas Bray, P.

February 27th: George Herbert, P.

## March 2023 Calendar

### March 1

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### March 5

Second Sunday in Lent  
11:00 am Worship

### March 8

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### March 12

Third Sunday in Lent  
11:00 am Worship  
ECW Meeting

### March 14

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

### March 15

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study  
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

### March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
11:00 am Worship

### March 22

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
11:00 am Worship

I realize it is not the norm to publish a sermon in the newsletter, but this is not a typical sermon. I hope like-minded people band with me to at least discuss options and look for answers to the myriad of questions. I know the first question I ask myself is “why did it take so long for you to get to this point”.

Sermon presented 1/22/23

My wife would be surprised that a TV commercial was the impetus for my sermon today. I watch TV with the closed captions on since I do not always clearly hear the dialogue. Most commercials are not captioned, and I do not always know what they are about. Several recent commercials garnered my attention. The subject matter was school gun violence. The commercials are the product of the Sandy Hook Project, named for the site of the December 2002 school shooting.

In the 20 years since that horrific event the number of mass shootings in this country has risen exponentially. A mass shooting is defined as one or more gunmen shooting more than 4 people. It is bothersome to me that this event occurs with enough regularity that it required a definition. I decided to research just how many of these events have occurred and was appalled at the number. Since 2014, nine years, there have been a recorded 4,042 instances that meet the definition of a mass shooting. They occur in both large and small towns and in the cities and suburbs. They occur in the workplace, nightclubs, malls, theaters, schools, and places of worship.

There is a great deal of reluctance to discuss and debate the issues of gun control. For some it is the defense of what I believe to be a very misunderstood second amendment. For others it is being uniquely American in being a gun toting citizen emulating our forefathers depicted in countless western movies. Many Americans believe fervently that the right to own a gun and carry it in public is sacrosanct. The United States is the only country where guns outnumber people, according to the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey. In a Congressional Survey conducted in 2012 it was estimated that there were more than three hundred million guns in America. FBI background check data indicates that gun sales went up tremendously during the pandemic.

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## March 2023 Calendar continued

March 29

7:30 am Worship

11:00 am Bible Study

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Proponents of safer gun laws run head long into the powerful coalition of various gun owner groups including the National Rifle Association and the gun manufacturers. Candidates for Federal, State, and local elections backed by the NRA are successful 90% of the time. It is difficult to even begin a discussion of gun laws against such organized resistance.

Despite being a gun owner, I have never agreed with the National Rifle Association on two points. I disagree with the proliferation of military and military type semi-automatic and automatic weapons. They are designed primarily for one purpose and that is to fire high powered and high velocity bullets as fast as you can move your finger. The target would too often be another human. I also fervently disagree with their tenant that states all that is needed to stop a bag guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Nightly news coverage all too frequently relates stories of the bystander or unaware motorist caught by stray bullets from being caught in a crossfire.

When these tragedies occur, we pray for the victims, their families and friends and we might even pray for the soul of the perpetrator. I ask you the question that I have begun to ask myself. Are our prayers enough? As God loving Christians, should we do more? I welcome the chance to at least start a dialogue with any that are interested.

I close with the words of Edmund Burke which I have amended to be more inclusive. "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing."

Bob Grow

### COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up recently to bring something for coffee hour? This sign-up sheet was revised for 2023 to allow parishioners to bring an item for coffee hour rather than be responsible for providing all the goodies. We realized how expensive it could be to bring in multiple food items. Did you know that you can get reimbursed up to \$30 towards your cost for refreshments? See Bob Miller for reimbursements.

Thanks – *Sheron Drennen*

## **April 2023** **Calendar**

### **April 2**

Palm Sunday  
11:00 am Worship

### **April 5**

7:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Bible Study

### **April 6**

Maundy Thursday  
Service at Incarnation,  
Morrisville 7:00 pm

### **April 7**

Good Friday  
Service at Incarnation,  
Morrisville 12:00 pm

### **April 8**

Easter Vigil  
Service at Incarnation,  
Morrisville 7:30 pm

### **April 9**

Easter Sunday  
11:00 am Worship

### **April 11**

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

### **April 16**

Second Sunday of Easter  
11:00 am Worship  
ECW Meeting

## **ITALIAN DINNER – FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

What time of year is it when tantalizing aromas drift from our Grace Church kitchen stimulating your senses of taste and smell? It's Italian Dinner time. Tell your friends and family what a delicious event this is. Bring them along for fun, good company and a wonderful meal.

Once again your ECW asks for your help. There is a sign-up sheet for food donations on the bulletin board in the hall. These donations help to defray the cost of the meal. Please take a look at the list and sign up to bring an item.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:00 pm and includes a salad bar, pasta & meatballs or meat/vegetable lasagna and dessert. Tickets: \$13.00 adults; \$6.00 children ages 6-11; and children 5 & under are free. THANK YOU! *ECW*

## **LENT SCHEDULE - 2023**

2/22 – Ash Wednesday -services at 7:30 am & 12:00 pm with the Imposition of Ashes;

service at Incarnation, Morrisville at 7:00 pm

2/26 -First Sunday in Lent 11:00 am service

3/5 – Second Sunday in Lent 11:00 am service

3/12 – Third Sunday in Lent 11:00 am service

3/19 – Fourth Sunday in Lent 11:00 am service

3/26 – Fifth Sunday in Lent 11:00 am service

4/2 – Palm Sunday 11:00 am service

4/6 – Maundy Thursday – service at Incarnation, Morrisville at 7:00 pm

4/7 – Good Friday – service at Incarnation, Morrisville at 12:00 pm

4/8 – Easter Vigil – service at Incarnation, Morrisville at 7:30 pm

4/9 – Easter Sunday 11:00 am service

**April 2023****Calendar continued****April 19**

7:30 am Worship  
 11:00 am Bible Study  
 7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

**April 23**

Third Sunday of Easter  
 11:00 am Worship

**April 26**

7:30 am Worship  
 11:00 am Bible Study

**April 30**

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
 11:00 am Worship

**MARY'S CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you for your generous support of Mary's Cupboard food pantry.

Below is a list of items that are currently needed.

**Cranberry sauce****Stuffing****Tomato Sour****Chicken noodle soup**

We have a LARGE quantity of peanut butter so we will not be in need of any. Thank you.

Any questions contact *Sonja Norton* 215-946-7559.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 5 – Annual Meeting

February 18 – Italian Dinner

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

February 26 – First Sunday in Lent

March 5 – Second Sunday in Lent

March 12 – Third Sunday in Lent

March 19 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 2 – Palm Sunday

April 6 – Maundy Thursday

April 7 – Good Friday

April 9 – Easter

May 14 – Mother's Day

May 20 – Country Buffet

May 28 – Pentecost

May 29 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

June 4 – Trinity Sunday

June 18 – Father's Day



## Vestry Leadership

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Senior Warden:

Bob Miller (215) 788-2972

Junior Warden:

Leon Horger  
(215) 788-0720

Treasurer:

Langhorne Tax &  
Bookkeeping

Building Treasurer:

Al Van Dine  
(215) 943-1572

Clerk of the Vestry:

Cathie Miller  
(215) 788-2972

## Ministry Teams

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Communication:

Sheron Drennen

Pastoral Care:

Doris Laino

Vestry Members:

Dennis Hickey,  
Leon Horger,  
David Jackson,  
Bob Miller,  
Edgar Seely,  
Al Van Dine,  
Joan Vurlicer.

## PRAYER LIST

Just a reminder that the Prayer List in the Sunday bulletin is for those who have an immediate, short-term need. These names will be listed in the bulletin for four weeks.

The Prayer List in the newsletter and Noon Prayer bulletin will contain the names of those who have a long-term illness. The names on these two lists will be removed after two months if no new information is provided (in writing). All prayer requests must be in writing and must be submitted by Tuesday morning to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

*Sheron Drennen*

## PRAYER LIST FOR FEBRUARY

Alicia	Kathy
Bergey family	Keller family
Brian	Linda
Gerry	Matthew
Jim	Mike
Joe	Schmidt family
John H	Shirley
John M	William

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

4 - John Ott	16 - Mary Clark
5 - Joyce Grow	20 - Sue Ditterline
7 - Leon Horger	27 - Robert Grow
8 - Harold Causey	28 - Christopher McDonald
13 - Jacob VanDine	

## ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY

