

RITE-13 LITURGY

A Celebration of Adulthood

Our celebrities today are in their second year of the Rite 13 class for 7th and 8th graders. The Rite-13 class is the first part of the Journey to Adulthood program with the curriculum designed to incorporate our youth fully into the life of the church.

Today's *Rite 13 Liturgy* is a rite of passage where we recognize God's blessed gift of adulthood. This is a free gift that we cannot earn and need not prove. As we grow and mature in the journey to adulthood, our knowledge and skills increase, but the magical core of who we are remains the same. These teenagers are no longer children – they are young men and women, but they are not yet adults. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people" and we work together as a congregation to support these teenagers on their journey to adulthood. We affirm that these young men and women are becoming active participants in the world around them – as the responsible, generous and wonderful people God has promised them to be. Today we say to them "You matter to us."

This is not confirmation. Confirmation is a conscious affirmation of Christianity as one's personal faith, and is celebrated during a bishop visit when our teenagers are in high school and members of the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program.

Our celebrities begin the service sitting with their parents, but after receiving their blessing they will move to sit with the rest of the teens in the Youth Group. This is a symbol of the widening world of the teenager – expanding from family influence to also include peer influence.

We hope you enjoy being a part of this special day in the life of our celebrities. You, the congregation, are witnesses of this very important rite of passage. You are here today to actively help in this process by your presence, your prayers and your love.

A liturgy of
The Journey to Adulthood Program

March 15, 2020



NICENE CREED

After the Nicene Creed the Celebrities, together with their parents & family members, other participants in the Rite-13 class, J2A members and the Celebrant, move to the chancel steps.

THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant

Dear People of God: Today we celebrate one of God's great gifts - the gift of adulthood. The candidates will now be presented.

Parents

Father Chip, we present, **Sebastian Lee Maldonado, Cameron James Owens, Gabrielle N. Parkinson, Harrison Godfrey Richards and Eric Ross Woodberry** who this day move from childhood to adulthood.

THE CHARGE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Sebastian, Cameron, Gabrielle, Harrison and Eric by the grace of God you have lived through the pains and joys of childhood and have grown strong. Now, as young adults, it is given to you to share God's power of creation. You are blessed with the ability to create new ideas, new thoughts, new hopes for the world, and indeed, even to create new life. Because we are made in God's image, we are the only creatures on earth who can choose how to use their creative power—to shape the world according to God's purpose. God calls us to use this gift to build and not to destroy. Are you aware of God's gift to you and the responsibility to use it wisely?

Celebrities

I am.

Celebrities move from the altar rail to the center and turn around to face the congregation.

Celebrant

Let us join with these young people in reading Psalm 139. The congregation is asked to repeat the Antiphon.

PSALM 139 (*DOMINE, PROBASTI*)

Celebrities

LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there were none of them.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities move back to the altar rail with their families.

THE PRAYER FOR THE PARENTS

Celebrant

When Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus and found him in the temple, talking with the elders, they realized that he was a child no longer. So, these parents stand watching their children grow beyond childhood. Let us pray for them.

O God, bless **Lyndsey, Ray, Jacqueline, Amy, Brian, Margaret, Valentine, Brianna, Mitzi, Dennis, Grace, Ingrid, Kevin, Ivy Jean, Sonia, Tiffany, Eric and Judy**. Rejoice with them as their children become adults. Strengthen them that they may support their children as they begin the journey toward adulthood. Uphold them by your Spirit, that they may comfort them although they can neither walk their road for them nor shield them from pain. Carry them all safely through this journey, so that one day they may stand together as adults and friends, a joy and a comfort to each other all the days of their lives. ***Amen***

THE CHARGE TO THE YOUTH GROUP

Celebrant

Dear friends of **Sebastian, Cameron, Gabrielle, Harrison and Eric** as they move beyond the circle of their families, they will need loyal friends. They will need your advice, your encouragement and your acceptance. Will you be there for them and be their friends, knowing there will be times when your support means more to them than any other?

***J2A & Rite 13 Members:* We will, with God's help. We will support you in the ways that we are able and we offer you our friendship. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your peers and we support you on this journey. We welcome you to come join us.**

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Celebrant

As the living Body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of God which spans the generations, share your knowledge and experience with these young people as they become adults?

***People:* We will, with God's help.**

Celebrant

Will you guide, guard and sustain them as they grow into the full stature of Christ?

***People:* We will, with God's help.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrities kneel. The parents come forward and lay their hands on the Celebrities' shoulders. The Celebrant lays hands on each of them and says,

Sebastian, Cameron, Gabrielle, Harrison and Eric, you have been armed by Almighty God with both the imagination of childhood and the strength and creative power of adulthood. Now you must journey forth to gain the skills you will need to assume full responsibility as an adult.

For each blessing, the Celebrant marks the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead, saying:

Sebastian, Cameron, Gabrielle, Harrison and Eric, may Almighty God fill you with courage, wisdom and joy. May Jesus Christ, your strong companion and never-failing friend, make you strong in faith and defend you on every side. May the Holy Spirit guide you in truth and peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, rest upon you this day and forevermore.

The People respond, AMEN.

Certificates are presented to the Celebrities

The Prayers of the People by J2A

Please join us as we pray for the Church and the world.

For the love and kindness from God, let our sins be washed away.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give us strength.

For our priests, Father Chip and Father Adolfo, and for our past priests that brought Grace to where it is today.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give them guidance.

For all the leaders of the world.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord help them make the world a better place.

For the Westchester community we pray for a safe environment where people can be their true selves.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give us protection.

For the people with the skill set to grow and provide us with food.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give them good weather.

For the good Earth, God has given us; give us the ability to prevent climate change.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give us wisdom to change.

For those who are traveling, let them learn new things and have new experiences.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord grant them curiosity.

For those who can no longer take care of themselves and for those struggling to get
by day to day.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord give them peace and comfort.

For those we now name silently or aloud (please name those in your prayers
currently).

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord place your healing hands upon them.

For those who now live with God in his eternal kingdom, especially those we now
name either silently or aloud (please name those in your prayers at this time) and for
all the saints who've gone before us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord thank you for their presence on earth and in heaven.

Priest: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask
only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our
blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace *is then exchanged.*

*Celebrities now leave their families' pew to sit with their peers symbolizing their journey toward
adulthood.*

The service continues with the Offertory.

MEET OUR CELEBRITIES

Sebastian Lee Maldonado

I was born on March 23, 2006 at White Plains Hospital. I live in White Plains with my mother and grandmother. My brother is Raymond Maldonado and he is 20 years old. I am in the eighth grade at the Thornton Donovan School in New Rochelle. My favorite subject is English. I enjoy photography, drawing, travel, horseback riding and spending time with friends. My favorite thing I enjoy about Grace Church is socializing during class and at coffee hour with parishioners. I am looking forward to becoming an adult and going to college, having more autonomy and pursuing a photography career. I hope that people don't just tolerate others, but truly accept people that are different from them.

Cameron James Owens

My name is Cameron James Owens and I am 14-years old. My birthday is March 2, 2006. I live in White Plains with my parents, Brian and Amy Owens; my 19-year old brother Cassius, who is a Sophomore at Hofstra University, my 18-year old sister Kaylee, who is a Freshman at Seton Hall University, and my grandmother, Laura Auld.

I am in 8th grade and my favorite subject this year is Pre-Algebra. I play football and I go to the gym to train in boxing and Muay Thai. The activities that I most enjoy in my free time are playing football and playing the drums, which I have been doing since I was 5. I also like creating music and beats. At Grace Church, my favorite thing is seeing the friends that I have grown up with.

As I complete Rite 13 and am becoming an adult, I think the best things are being able to drive soon and being trusted with more responsibilities. My hope for the world is that there will be more peace and that people will become aware of the things that really matter in life.



Gabrielle N. Parkinson

My name is Gabrielle Parkinson. I was born on August 28, 2006. I live in Greenburgh with my Mom, Dad, and my older sister Brianna. I attend Woodlands Middle High School and I'm in the eighth grade.

I play, volleyball, soccer and run track. My favorite thing about Grace Church is there's always some event going on; everyone is super friendly and supportive especially when trying new things. The best thing I think about being an adult will be more freedom and going to college, I hope when the time comes I will be eligible for a sports scholarship. I am still unsure on what career I want to pursue. I want to be able to take on more responsibility and balance my life as I enter high school.

Harrison Godfrey Richards

My name is Harrison Godfrey Richards. I was born on March 24, 2006 to Kevin and Ingrid Richards. I currently live in the Town of Yorktown with my mom, my dad, my sister, Ivana (12) and my brother, Joel (6).

I am in the eighth grade and attend St. Augustine's School in Ossining, New York. I have just begun to enjoy school and understand why it is important to my success as an adult. If I had to pick my favorite subjects it would be Social Studies and Math. Social Studies teaches us about our past, the good and bad deeds. We learn about the events that form our present. I am thankful for my time at St. Augustine's school and look forward to continuing my educational journey at Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle this fall as I enter high school.

I have played various sports during my lifetime: football, lacrosse, wrestling, basketball and track. I am currently a member of my school's basketball team and Strider's track club. I currently compete in the 200, 400, and 800 meter dash as well as the long jump. I strive to achieve my personal best every time I compete. I also enjoy watching and providing advice to my younger brother Joel when he competes. It makes me feel like a helpful older brother.

I am a parishioner at Grace Episcopal Church, in White Plains, where I was Baptized and plan to be Confirmed, so I may recommit myself to the Church and its teachings, in late Fall. Today, I am happy to have the opportunity to celebrate my manhood ceremony with my church family. These events are very important to me as I continue my journey to adulthood. I currently serve as an Acolyte, participate, at times, as a lay reader, and am an active member of the Rite 13 group.

I look forward to becoming an adult and having children of my own, teaching them how important it is to find something you are passionate about and working at it, and most of all striving to be a kind person who gives to others.

Eric Ross Woodberry

My name is Eric Ross Woodberry. My birthday is April 12, 2006. I am 13 years old, soon to be 14. I live in White Plains, NY with my mom, my dad, my brother, Aaron, and my sister, Emmi.

I am an 8th grader at Woodlands Middle/High School. My favorite subject in school is English Language Arts. At school, I play trumpet in the school band, and I play on the Varsity basketball team. This year, I played modified football. Outside of school, I play AAU basketball for Team Overtime, and I have been an acolyte at Grace Church for about 6 years.

Everyone knows that I love to play basketball, but my other hobbies are playing video games and playing the trumpet.

I have been coming to Grace Church since I was born. The thing that I love most about Grace Church are the people. Everyone is so supportive and uplifting. I always know that every Sunday morning I will be greeted with a hug or a smile from somebody!

I think the best thing about becoming an adult is that I will have more independence, and I will be able to do things like go out with my friends and drive!

As I become an adult, my hope for myself is to be successful in all that I do, to be responsible, and to always make the right choices. My hope for the world is that all people, no matter their race, color, religion, or gender will be treated fairly and equally, and people can live their lives without fear.



**WORDS OF WISDOM
FROM THE MEMBERS OF GRACE CHURCH
TO THEIR TEENAGERS**

Candidates, know that you are special. Know that the world is at your beckon call. Know that Grace Church is behind you. And know that God through Christ loves you more than you can know.

Know that life brings ups and downs; and that neither lasts. Know that the best lesson is experience. Know that true success comes in the form of character.

Know that your best tool is perseverance. Never give up, knowing realizing the one above is always on your side.

Remember those closest to you - your family, your friends. Let them know you appreciate them and love them.

May God bless you on your journey,

Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

God never gives up on you, never give up on yourself.

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Each day, you can choose to do things that bring peace, love, and joy to yourself and others, or you can do things that cause destruction, pain, and unhappiness. Choose peace, love, and joy.

Amy ~ Mother of Rite 13 Celebrity

1. No matter how much I want it for you, I can't want it more than you.
2. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.
3. "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." ... Malcolm X

Brian ~ Father of Rite 13 Celebrity

Listen to your parents! We make mistakes, and we don't know everything. Be patient with us, as we are with you! We always have your back and love you unconditionally!!

Eric & Tiffany ~ Parents of 3 kids (one being a celebrity)

Manhood is a difficult but necessary transition. Contrary to the perceived tenets of this very ceremony, the transition to manhood is not defined by ones age or size and the necessary timing of this transition is not written in divine law. Manhood, instead, is a state of being, a state of understanding, a state of acceptance. Owning your actions and the consequences that comes with exercising your judgment for which you've put your faith in God to be sound, working through the challenges of this world with a relentless endurance powered by the spirit of the Lord within you and exercising a level of responsibility for others in your family, your community and the world motivated by the love you have for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Harrison, may God be with you along this journey and forevermore. Mom & Dad

Kevin & Ingrid ~ Parent of a Celebrity +2

Follow your dreams, work hard and never give up. Be true to who you are, and make every day count.

Judy, Grandma x 3

Remain true to yourself!

Laura, Grandmother

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Shirley, Great-Grandmother

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement." - Helen Keller

submitted by *George, Father of 3*

Don't allow disappointments to deter you. Keep striving towards your goals. You can achieve them.

Grandma Simon

Don't limit yourself to following others. Decide which path is best for you.

Papa Simon

1. Care for Yourself **first** so you can then **care for others**.

2. We ALL face difficult issues and decisions. When we **face our problems** instead of avoiding them, **we transform ourselves** from people who run away **into people who move forward**.

Kim, 52

Ask your parents (grandparents) about your heritage. You may find in these stories a source of limitless inspiration.

Michael, Father of 2

Don't let the world change your smile, let your smile change the world.

Carole - Mother & Retiree

When you are about to do something, picture it as a news headline. If you like it, go for it; but if not re-think what you are doing.

Donna, Teacher, Mother of 2 sons

Don't let other people or groups define you, define yourself!

The best way to get started is to get going.

Disaster is an opportunity for positive change.

Paxton, Father of 2 sons

Think, then do what you know is right.

Aunt to be

Don't just follow trails, blaze them.

Nikolas, Eagle Scout

Don't try too hard to be someone you're not, just so you fit in. Be you!

Anna Kristina, J2A member

Your Church family will be there for you when you feel like no one else is.

Jordan, J2A member

Enjoy life.

Vika, J2A member

Don't overthink because it'll all work out.

Priya, J2A member

Don't be afraid of hard work.

Aaron, J2A member

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Cris, J2A member

Don't compare yourself to others; everyone is just trying to figure it out."

Asbley, J2A leader

In all things, trying your best is enough.

Lauren, J2A leader

Remember you are enough and believe you can. You have a wealth of knowledge. You are a happy, loving person and successful.

Jo-Ann B.

Try to follow your heart and mind in difficult situations. Do not let "group" mentality force your decisions.

Anonymous

"The purpose of life, after all, is to live it to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."... Eleanor Roosevelt

