

Spring 2018

## Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



# The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

### The 2018 Grace Church Vestry



(L-R: Father Adolfo Moronta, Trisha McGuinness, Marisol Ortega, Daisy Calderon, Sorraya Sampson-Elliott, Karen Odom, Charlotte Roberson, Irene Alves, Malik Bradford, Amy Owens, Joe Gallo, Hillary Fleming, Michael Heffner, Mother Judith Lee)



**To the Members of Grace/LaGracia Church:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parishioners of Grace/LaGracia Church for the positive feedback and vote of confidence. With time, I along with the Vestry, hope to continue to retain your confidence.

I would like to thank the previous Vestry for their hard work and look forward to working with the new Vestry. As we embark on the future, there are several challenges we face as a community. We have a deficit budget that needs to be controlled, the parish elevator will undergo major renovations, a rectory requiring renovations, growing the congregation, and most importantly, the search for a new Rector. The challenges may seem daunting. However, in the more than twenty eight years I have been a member of Grace, I have never seen a challenge not met. We have grown our endowment from approximately \$300,000 to more than \$1,200,000. The Church is in the process of renovating the organ as well as the stained glass windows. I will work to ensure the lines of communications remain open to all with the caveat that it works both ways. Not I, the Vestry, nor any parishioner is perfect. I am sure there will be many positive changes despite the challenges which the Church needs to address. If there are areas which concern you, bring them to the attention of the Vestry and have the commitment to be part of the solution. We must all remember that the major focus is the good of the Church in striving to meet our mission. I look forward to challenges ahead and the support of the parish members.

With God's help and guidance,

Joe Gallo

Senior Warden

---

**Your New Vestry**

**Senior Warden:**

**Joe Gallo** became a member of Grace over 27 years ago, and has contributed many talents to Grace. He served on the Vestry and as the Treasurer for over 20 years. He also served as a Sunday School Teacher and as a consultant to the Vestry on the prior Rector Search committee. Joe is looking to the future and is committed to the



growth of the church. He is dedicated to ensuring that all voices are heard and respected.

**Junior Warden:**

**Malik Bradford** has been a pledging member of Grace Church since 2009 and attends the Sunday morning 10am service regularly. He was confirmed at the Church of St. Francis and St. Martha. He is a returning Vestry member and serves on the altar as an acolyte. He has served Grace on the Technology and Communications, Building and Grounds, and Project Connect committees. Malik is focused on augmenting the relationship between the Vestry and the congregation that strengthens the sense of welcoming, community and connectedness. He wants to assure that we grow the spirituality of Grace/ LaGracia.

**New Vestry Members:**

**Daisy Calderon** is a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church, with 3 years of service to Grace/La Gracia. She is presently involved in the welcoming and fellowship ministry, Spiritual development/Prayer Groups and Outreach to parishes in the neighboring communities that serve Latin American parishioners. Daisy is also a member of the Search committee for our new Rector, which allows her to learn not only about the search process for a Rector, but to also become more familiar with our church in general. Daisy is committed to increasing diversity at Grace/La Gracia and wants more transparency of communication.

**Hillary A. Fleming** has been a member of Grace Church for about 14 years. She has been on the Vestry twice before and served as Treasurer of Grace Church from 2006-2008. In addition to these positions, she is a lector, a counter, an usher and now Treasurer again since September. She has served on the Welcoming Committee, the Angelus team, and coordinated a Women's Retreat here in 2009. She is currently a member of the Bible Study Group, the Finance Committee and has helped with many different events, fundraisers and activities here at Grace. Hillary is focused on creating a strategy for growth and how we minister to our congregation and outreach into the community.

**Michael Heffner** has been a pledging member of Grace Church since 1991. He has been actively involved in Grace serving multiple terms on the Vestry (as Vestry member and warden), served on a number of committees (Technology/Communications, Finance, Building & Grounds, Stewardship) and has served as a member of: Christian Education, the Ushers Guild, Lectors, and holiday soup kitchen volunteers. Michael is focused on a strategy for growth that brings in new families to Grace/La Gracia particularly those with young children.

**Trisha McGuinness** has been a member of Grace Church for 4 years. She is retired and currently lives on Church St., a few blocks from Grace. Trisha was received into the Episcopal Church in 2008 at St. Bartholomew's in NYC where she attended for a number of years. When she moved to White Plains, she initially attended St. Bartholomew Church in White Plains, which was close to her mother's home in the Highlands neighborhood. Trisha wants to bring growth to the congregation by outreach to millennials.

---

### **Reflections.....Vestry Retreat**

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord  
Jeremiah 29:11*



The 2018 Grace Church/LaGracia Vestry met at the Rectory for a retreat on the evening of February 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm. It began with prayer, a delicious dinner cooked by Mother Lee's husband Dale, music led by Fr. Moronta, and an offer to tour the rectory.



The evening was well planned and executed. We accomplished a great deal in the beautiful calm atmosphere of the rectory. Roles and responsibilities were given and discussed while adding Vestry Liaisons to all committees, mindful that we are preparing for a new rector. The role of the Liaison is to ensure open and consistent communication between the Vestry and the committee, with ongoing consultation with the Wardens & the Rector/Interim Pastor.

Our first order of business was the appointment of a Treasurer and a Clerk to complete our Executive committee.

Treasurer.....Hillary A. Fleming

Clerk.....Sorraya Sampson-Elliott

The Standing Committees of the Vestry are:

Executive Committee: Joe Gallo  
 Malik Bradford  
 Hillary A. Fleming  
 Sorraya Sampson-Elliott  
 Mother Judith Lee (Interim Pastor)

Building and Grounds: Walter Simon (Chair)  
 Irene Alves (Liaison)  
 William Biles  
 Barbara Biles  
 Nathaniel Hogan  
 Robert Soso

Finance Committee: (expanded for 2018)  
 Joe Gallo (Co-Chair)  
 Hillary A. Fleming (Co-Chair)  
 Malik Bradford  
 Carlos Munoz  
 Michael Fischer  
 Daisy Calderon



LaGracia Planning Group: (designated a Standing Committee for 2018)

Fr. Adolfo Moronta (Associate Priest)

Daisy Calderon (Chair)

Joe Gallo Sr. Warden

Irene Alves (Liaison)

Matilda Lazcano

Paola Carmargo Barrera

Alba Juarez

Lila Arroya

Appointment of Committee Liaisons, priorities and goals for 2018 were all discussed. Our focus was sharing an overview of the coming year.

Committee Liaisons: (Every Vestry member is liaison to a committee):

1. Amy Auld Owens & Marisol Ortega: Youth Ministries (Sunday School, Youth & Families, T2T, FX3)
2. Michael Heffner, Liaison & Chair: Communications; Liaison -Worship
3. Karen Odom: Choir /Music Program
4. Charlotte Roberson Chair, Daisy Calderon (La Gracia Liaison): Stewardship
5. Trisha McGuiness: Welcoming/Project Connect/ECW
6. Sorraya Sampson-Elliott & Michael Heffner (Co-Chairs): Advocacy/Community Partnerships
7. Hillary Fleming: Pastoral Care

We accomplished much and it was a very productive evening. It was also an evening in which we felt the new Vestry had truly bonded with a commitment to move forward in a positive manner. The retreat ended with Communion, prayers, and music. May God's presence, love and grace be integrated in all our dealings with each other.

Irene Alves



## A Letter from your Interim Pastor Mother Judith Lee

*There are two moments that matter. One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. Lent is about both. The first such moment gives you energy and joy by connecting you with your ultimate Source and Ground. The second gives you limits and boundaries, and a proper humility, so you keep seeking the Source and Ground and not just your small self.*

—Richard Rohr, *Wondrous Encounters*

Richard Rohr's meditation reminds us that Lent is not only about what we do or don't do, or about what we "give up" or "give back." It is a time set aside to face ourselves in all our contradictions: to re-live both the moments when we have felt most alive and the moments when we have felt barren, the moments when we have known the fullness of God's grace, and the moments when we have felt most empty, the moments when our hearts have been overflowing with confidence and trust, and the moments when we have been disheartened by disappointment and betrayal. In Thomas Merton's words: *I am thrown into contradiction: to realize it is mercy, to accept it is love, and to help others do the same is compassion.*"

Lent is a journey to seek mercy, accept love, and practice compassion by looking unflinchingly at who we are and who we are not. It has been called a journey from ashes to fire: from the ashes with which we mark our foreheads on Ash Wednesday to the new fire of Easter morning. It is a journey to the place where we feel the greatest joy and the greatest vulnerability—wherever that place may be.

Etty Hillesum has a beautiful way of putting it:

*There is a really deep well inside me.*

*And in it dwells God.*

*Sometimes I am there too.*

*But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath.*

*Then God must be dug out again.*

We often think of Lent as a time of spiritual spring-cleaning, when we tidy up and put away the things that clutter our lives. But I think it can also be a disorderly time, a time when we throw away what we no longer need, journeying with a single-mindedness that does not bother with tidying up. So that at the end of Lent we can look back and see strewn behind us all the things that we no longer need to



block our vision, box ourselves in, or give ourselves false comfort: the “stones” of our excuses, our procrastinations, our self-protection, our self-indulgence. We will come before God in the company of the Risen Christ, having left no stone unturned, humbled by our limitations and grateful for the fullness of our lives.

*Hay dos momentos que importan. Una es cuando sabes que tu única vida es absolutamente valiosa y viva. La otra es cuando sabes que tu vida, como la vives actualmente, es completamente inútil y vacía. La Cuaresma es sobre ambos. El primero de esos momentos te da energía y alegría al conectarte con tu Fuente y Fundamento último. El segundo te da límites y lfronteras, y una humildad apropiada, por lo que sigues buscando la Fuente y el Terreno y no solo tu pequeño ser.*

-Richard Rohr, Maravillosos Encuentros

La meditación de Richard Rohr nos recuerda que la Cuaresma no solo se trata de lo que hacemos o no hacemos, o de lo que "abandonamos" o "devolvemos". Es un momento reservado para enfrentarnos a nosotros mismos en todas nuestras contradicciones: -vivir tanto los momentos en que nos hemos sentido más vivos y los momentos en que nos hemos sentido estériles, los momentos en que hemos conocido la plenitud de la gracia de Dios, y los momentos en que nos hemos sentido más vacíos, los momentos en que nuestros corazones han estado rebosante de confianza, y los momentos en que nos sentimos desanimados por la decepción y la traición. En palabras de Thomas Merton: Estoy en contradicción: darme cuenta de que es misericordia, aceptar que es amor, y ayudar a otros a hacer lo mismo es compasión”.

La Cuaresma es un viaje para buscar la misericordia, aceptar el amor y practicar la compasión mirando sin inmutarse quiénes somos y quiénes no somos. Se ha llamado un viaje desde las cenizas hasta el fuego: desde las cenizas con las que marcamos nuestras frentes hasta el nuevo fuego de la mañana de Pascua. Es un viaje al lugar donde sentimos la mayor alegría y la mayor vulnerabilidad, donde sea que esté ese lugar.

Etty Hillesum tiene una hermosa forma de expresarlo:

Hay un pozo realmente profundo dentro de mí.

Y en él habita Dios.

A veces estoy allí también.

Pero más a menudo las piedras y la arena bloquean el pozo, y Dios está enterrado debajo.

Entonces Dios debe ser desenterrado nuevamente.

A menudo pensamos en la Cuaresma como un tiempo de limpieza espiritual de primavera, cuando ordenamos y guardamos las cosas que saturan nuestras vidas. Pero creo que también puede ser un momento desordenado, un momento en que desechamos lo que ya no necesitamos, viajando con una mente única que no se molesta en poner en orden. Para que al final de la Cuaresma podamos mirar hacia atrás y ver desparramados detrás de nosotros todas las cosas que ya no necesitamos bloquear nuestra visión, encerrarnos o darnos una falsa comodidad: las "piedras" de nuestras excusas, nuestras postergaciones, nuestra autoprotección, nuestra autocomplacencia. Nos presentaremos ante Dios en compañía del Cristo resucitado, sin dejar piedra sin mover, humillados por nuestras limitaciones y agradecidos por la plenitud de nuestras vidas.

---

**We hope you will join us at this year's Oasis of Hope gala. It will be a celebration of all that Lifting Up Westchester has achieved over the past year... and a celebration of YOU because we couldn't do our work without the generous donations and support of Grace Church parishioners.**

**THANK YOU!**



## ***Honorees***

**Bill Doty**

*College Scholarship Founder*

**Lynn Richmond**

*Executive Vice President,  
Montefiore Health Systems*

## ***Ticket Prices***

\$200 / ticket

\$2,000 for Table of 10

*To purchase tickets contact Linda Gallo or Walter Simon*

Or purchase online [www.liftingupwestchester.org](http://www.liftingupwestchester.org)

# SAVE THE DATE



**Oasis  
of HOPE Gala**  
*Dinner & Live and Silent Auction*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH**  
6:00 P.M.-9:30 P.M.

Leewood Golf Club, 1 Leewood Dr.  
Eastchester, NY 10709

### **Holy Matrimony**

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Marriage is an idea of God. He created it, and designed it. When we come before an altar we are asking God to be part of our Union. This is why a true marriage is always about three, God your partner and you. The success of a marriage is a combination of love, patience, forgiveness, good humor, communication and perseverance. Additionally, through the sacrament of marriage, the couple commits to live love in

the same way they have learned it from God: a generous love, always seeking the good and happiness of the beloved, a love capable of sacrifice and forgiveness.

On January 28 2018 Lilian & Raul Fallas, members of Grace/ La Gracia were united in holy matrimony at the church. Since they opted not to have a private wedding the ceremony was



done in front of the members of the Latino Ministry. Presiding was The Rev. Adolfo Moronta and the concelebrant was the Rev. Judith Lee. More than 180 people witnessed their union. We wish them all the best as they now walk united by the blessing of God.

### Santo Matrimonio

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

El matrimonio es una idea de Dios. Él lo creó y lo diseñó. Cuando venimos ante un altar le pedimos a Dios que sea parte de nuestra Unión. Esta es la razón por la cual un verdadero matrimonio siempre es alrededor de tres, Dios, tu compañero y tú. El éxito de un matrimonio es una combinación de amor, paciencia, perdón, buen humor, comunicación y perseverancia. A través del sacramento del matrimonio, la pareja se compromete a vivir el amor de la misma forma que lo aprendieron de Dios: un amor generoso, siempre buscando el bien y la felicidad de la persona amada, un amor capaz de sacrificio y perdón.



El 28 de enero de 2018, Lilian y Raúl Fallas, miembros de Grace / La Gracia, se unieron en santo matrimonio en la iglesia. Como no optaron por tener una boda privada, la ceremonia se realizó ante los

miembros del Ministerio Latino. Presidió el enlace el Reverendo Adolfo Moronta y la concelebrante fue la Reverenda Judith Lee. Más de 180 personas fueron testigos de esa unión. Les deseamos a esta nueva pareja las mas abundantes y ricas bendiciones es este nuevo capítulo que comienzan unidos bajo la bendición de Dios.

---

## **BE INSPIRED BY MORE QUOTES FROM CORRIE TEN BOOM**

(1892-1983)

Hopefully you are becoming more acquainted with Corrie Ten Boom. Read more about her as a devotional discipline for this Lenten season. Look her up on the web. Read one of her books. There is even a movie about her! Meditate on the following quotes:

*There is no panic in Heaven! God has no problems, only plans.*

*Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear.*

*Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to faultfinding.*

*The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy.*

*It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability that counts.*

---



## **Spiritual Transformation During Lent**

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Just as we set aside time to prepare spiritually for Advent that takes us into the joyous season of Christmas, we also need to set aside time to prepare for Lent and our journey to Holy Week when we re-live the passion of Christ, and when on Easter day we proclaim his glorious resurrection.

Lent is a time to change what is bad in us for what is good, and what is good for what is best. Lent lasts 40 days and, as a measure of time, 40 appears in many books of the Bible. For example, in the New Testament, Jesus went to the desert to prepare for his ministry for 40 days and 40 nights (Matthew 4:2), and there were 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:3). From a practical perspective, 40 days gives us ample time to think, to pray, to act, and to change.

Since Lent is a special spiritual time of change, we should ask ourselves what needs to be changed: How can I be a better person? A better believer? A better friend? A



better colleague? During Lent, focus on those particular behaviors or attitudes that will be uplifting and life-affirming.

Many people have the custom of giving up something during Lent and they offer these sacrifices as a way to strengthen their spiritual life. For example, some may choose to give up certain foods or drink. For many, such sacrifices can help remind us that Lent is a time of reflection, and that is good. However, may I also suggest that we focus our reflections on our conduct – the good and the bad. Most especially, reflect on the positive things we should be doing but often neglect - spending more time with loved ones, expressing love to family and friends, apologizing to someone who have been hurt or injured, healing divisions within your family, calling a friend or a family member with whom you haven't talked for a while, or simply offering your time in order to help a person in need. The 40 days of Lent offer us the time to change our behavior for the better and to make that change our new routine for the future.

As we contemplate and reflect upon the meaning of Christ's sacrifice this Lent, let it lead to a personal spiritual renewal as we put our faith into action, not just for 40 days, but for the future.

### **Transformación Espiritual Durante la Cuaresma**

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Así como sacamos tiempo para prepararnos espiritualmente para el Adviento que nos lleva a la Navidad, también debemos reservar un tiempo para prepararnos para la Cuaresma y nuestro peregrinar hacia Semana Santa, donde volvemos a vivir la pasión de Cristo, y su gloriosa resurrección en el día de Pascua.

La Cuaresma es un tiempo para cambiar lo malo por lo que es bueno, y lo que es bueno para lo que es mejor. La cuaresma dura 40 días y, como medida de tiempo, el número 40 aparece en muchos libros de la Biblia. Por ejemplo, en el Nuevo Testamento, Jesús fue al desierto a prepararse para su ministerio durante 40 días y 40 noches (Mateo 4: 2), y hubo 40 días entre la resurrección y la ascensión de Jesús (Hechos 1: 3). Desde una perspectiva práctica, 40 días nos da mucho tiempo para pensar, orar, actuar y cambiar.



Dado a que la Cuaresma es un tiempo especial de cambio espiritual, debemos preguntarnos qué debo cambiar. ¿Cómo puedo ser una mejor persona? ¿Un mejor creyente? ¿Un mejor amigo? ¿Un mejor colega? Durante la Cuaresma, concéntrese en aquellos comportamientos o actitudes particulares que nos ayudaran a tener una vida más positiva.

Muchas personas tienen la costumbre de renunciar a algo durante la Cuaresma y ofrecen estos sacrificios como una forma de fortalecer su vida espiritual. Por ejemplo, algunos pueden optar por renunciar a ciertos alimentos o bebidas. Para muchos, tales sacrificios pueden ayudar a recordarnos que la Cuaresma es un tiempo de reflexión, y eso es bueno. Sin embargo, también puedo sugerir que centremos nuestras reflexiones en nuestra conducta: lo bueno y lo malo. Más especialmente, reflexione sobre las cosas positivas que deberíamos hacer, pero que a menudo descuidamos: pasar más tiempo con nuestros seres queridos, expresar amor a familiares y amigos, pedir disculpas a alguien que ha sido lastimado o herido, curar divisiones dentro de su familia, llamar a un amigo o un familiar con quien no ha hablado por un tiempo, o simplemente ofrecer su tiempo para ayudar a una persona necesitada. Los 40 días de Cuaresma nos ofrecen el tiempo para ser mejores personas y de hacer ese cambio una rutina para el futuro.

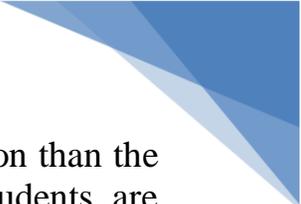
Mientras contemplamos y reflexionamos sobre el significado del sacrificio de Cristo durante esta Cuaresma, permita que esto le lleve a una renovación espiritual personal que le encamine a poner su fe en acción, no solo durante los 40 días de Cuaresma, sino también para nuestro el futuro.

---

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RITE 13 CELEBRATION OF YOUNG MANHOOD AND YOUNG WOMANHOOD**

**MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Rite 13 is a two-year program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, which is designed to foster their spiritual growth at the same time they are growing physically and emotionally into manhood and womanhood. The Bible curriculum is centered on studying core



concepts such as faith, but done in a more in-depth and analytical fashion than the class members encountered as primary school students. Rite 13 students are expected to participate in the program by expressing their own views and experiences as they relate to the subject matter under study. Service is an important element of the program, with class members assembling raffle baskets, assisting with the Christmas Pageant and hosting game days for the younger children. Approximately 6 weeks before the 8<sup>th</sup> graders “graduate” through the Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood ceremony during the church service, the class undertakes a concerted study in preparation for the final ceremony. During this time the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class members study a few well-known Bible passages in depth; joined by their parents, these students meet with the Rector; and then they are celebrated during the church service ceremony. The Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood is an uplifting event for celebrants and congregants alike.

George O’Hanlon

**The Angelus**  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Of Grace / La Gracia Church  
(914) 949-2874  
[www.gracewhiteplains.org](http://www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Judith Lee

Editors: Mary Baker and Michael Heffner

Contributors: Karen Odom, Father Adolfo Moronta, Mary Baker, Irene Alves,  
Joseph Gallo, Linda Gallo, Mother Judith Lee, Charlotte Roberson,  
Nathaniel Graves, George O’Hanlon

Distributor: Maria Campos

## **EARTH DAY – SUNDAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;  
What is man that thou art mindful of him,  
the son of man that thou dost care for him?  
Yet thou hast made him little less than God,  
and dost crown him with glory and honor.



Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands;  
thou hast put all things under his feet,  
All sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.  
O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is thy name in all the earth! [Psalm 8:4-10]

To once again put yourself into the proper perspective about your place in God's creation, re-read God's awesome answer to Job when he spoke to Job out of the whirlwind on the mountain: Job Chapters 38 and 39

A PRAYER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Book of Common Prayer – page 827

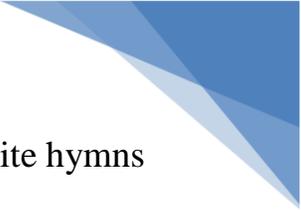
Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

---

### First Saturdays at Grace/La Gracia – 5 PM

Beginning in February, we will hold an informal service of Holy Communion on the first Saturday of each month at 5 PM. Each month will have a slightly different focus as we reach out to families and individuals who seek liturgical worship that is an alternative to Sunday morning. Each service will incorporate an activity for young children. Our purpose is to bring together both members of Grace/La Gracia and members of the downtown community.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** A contemplative Eucharist centered on our Lenten journey.  
Alex Auld will play the saxophone and Anaiz Reynoso Roberts will be our vocalist.

- 
- April 7<sup>th</sup>** A joyful service celebrating Easter with singing favorite hymns of the season and looking ahead to Earth Day.
- May 5<sup>th</sup>** Celebrating Cinco de Mayo in a bi-lingual service with music from Mexico and traditions from Latin America, followed by dinner
- October 6<sup>th</sup>** Blessing of the animals – Pets will be welcome.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>** All Saints – remembering and celebrating our spiritual mentors
- December 1<sup>st</sup>** Blue Christmas: Contemplative Service for the “blues” of the season
- 

## LENT AT GRACE / LA GRACIA

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**7:30 PM Stations of the Cross in the church**  
**8:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Meeting Mary**

- |                                 |                                                              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 21<sup>st</sup></b> | The Mother of Jesus: Scripture and the early church          |
| <b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b> | The Virgin Mother: The Middle Ages & the Renaissance         |
| <b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>     | <i>Theotokos</i> -the Mother of God: The Orthodox Traditions |
| <b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>    | Nuestra Senora de las Americas: The Meso-American Traditions |
| <b>March 21<sup>st</sup></b>    | The Model Disciple: Modern Protestant Traditions             |

### FRIDAYS IN LENT

La Gracia will join with other Spanish-speaking congregations for Stations of the Cross. Grace Church will host this service on **Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM** followed by supper.

**Daily e-meditations based on *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*, ed. Marek P. Zabriskie**



## Wednesdays in Lent: Meeting Mary

We will continue the tradition of Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm followed by study and reflection. Each week we will pray a different version of the Stations, each with a particular theme and interpretation of walking the Way of the Cross.

Because the position of Mary is one of the most significant differences between our English-speaking and Spanish-speaking congregations, on Wednesday evenings we will explore the various ways in which Mary is portrayed in different historical periods and cultural traditions. We will begin by reading early stories about Mary in the Gospels and Pseudepigrapha during the first two centuries of Christianity. In these texts, we find a woman who is neither shamed by bearing a child outside wedlock nor the property of any man; we meet a mother who does not limit her son's freedom to fulfill the promise of God.

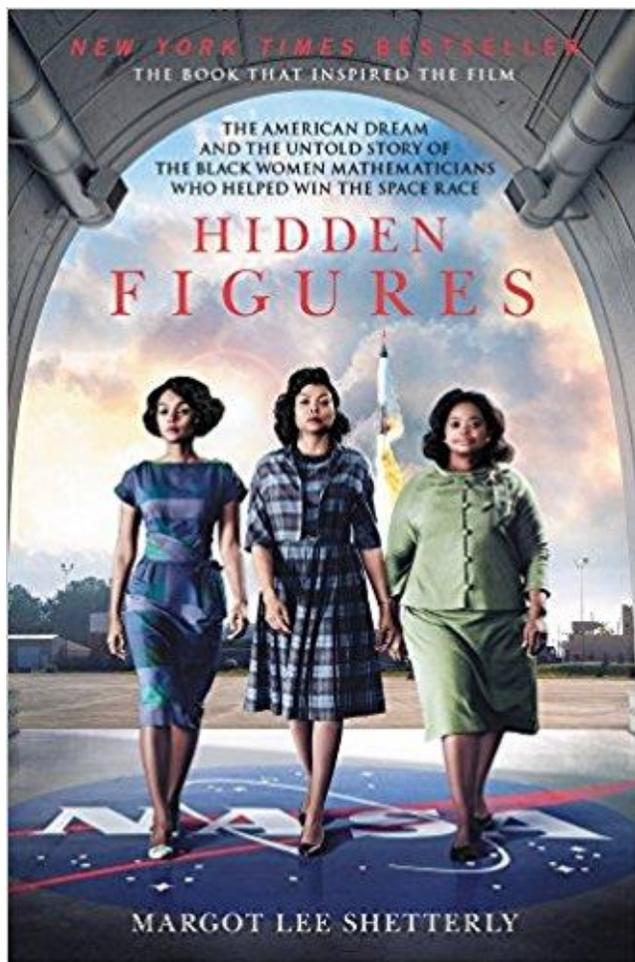
This understanding of Mary changed with the development of the doctrine that Jesus Christ was both human and divine, when the doctrine of Mary the Virgin emerged in Western Christianity. Simultaneously, in the Eastern Orthodox traditions the icons of Mary as the Mother of God (*Theotokos*- the God-bearer) grew in importance. Whereas the Western Christian traditions portrayed Mary as set apart, fundamentally different from other human beings, Eastern Orthodox traditions portrayed her as the model for the sanctification that God is bringing about in all human beings, and devotion to Mary was a means by which all believers become "God-bearers).

On the March 14<sup>th</sup>, the fourth Wednesday in Lent, we will turn to the representation of Mary in the Americas, with particular attention to Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will join La Gracia in their weekly Prayer Group that evening, with songs and prayers to Mary. Finally, on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the last Wednesday in Lent, we will look at contemporary Protestant interpretations of Mary as the model disciple, looking again at passages from Scripture as well as contemporary poetry and reflections by women.

## Fridays in Lent

La Gracia will join other Spanish-speaking congregations at a different church each week for Camino de La Cruz and a meal. On Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grace church will host this gathering.

## Grace Church Book Club



### Join the Book Club in our Parish-Wide Read!

Dig more deeply into the lives and experiences of the phenomenal black female mathematicians at NASA who played a major role in some of the country's greatest space achievements when the Book Club discusses its parish-wide read, **Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race**, by Margot Lee Shetterly. Grab some refreshments, then join us in the church library at coffee hour on Sunday, March 11!

*Submitted by Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)*

---

## Holy Week and Easter at Grace La Gracia 2018

-----  
March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

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

12:30 PM La Santa Eucaristia & Domingo de Ramos  
-----



**March 29, 2018  
Maundy Thursday  
7:00 PM Bi-Lingual Holy Eucharist**

**March 30, 2018  
Good Friday 12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy  
7:00 PM Viernes Santo**

---

**March 31, 2018  
Holy Saturday  
7: 00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter – Bi-lingual Service**

**April 1, 2018  
Easter Sunday  
8:00AM Holy Eucharist spoken in English  
10:00 AM Festival Holy Eucharist in English  
12:30 PM Domingo de Pascua Misa en Espanol**

***The Deadline for The Spring Angelus  
Is May 15<sup>th</sup>. As Always, Thank You For  
Your Contributions!***

---

**Nathaniel Graves  
Black History Month  
February 4, 2018**

*Nathaniel Graves gave the address to begin our Celebration of Black History Month on February 4, 2018. His talk can be heard at [www.gracechurchwhiteplains.org](http://www.gracechurchwhiteplains.org)*

Good morning Grace. It is an absolute pleasure to be with you this morning, celebrating and reflecting on Blackness and the myriad of aesthetics, diversities, cultures, sociopolitical successes and shortcomings and many more themes, all entangled in association with our various definitions of Black History.

After discussing with Mother Lee and the Black History Month organizers (Karen Odom and Marie Barrow) of potential ways of approaching this talk, I decided there was too much I wanted to share, and therefore decided to summarize my thoughts in what my younger sister, Meg Graves, described to me as “New Faith.” Like my father, I have many critical thoughts and ideas about many topics, and trying to fit all of them into this one discussion would be overwhelming and laborious.



I want to be forward with you: I am going to pose some ideas that may be challenging, some of which some of you might not agree with, but hopefully you won't take offense. That being said, if I did not platform certain “radical” ideologies in specific spaces, I would not be living and following in the footsteps of the sung and unsung heroes who once were seen as radicals opposed to the status quo of their time.



This past November, I attended a pre-World AIDS Day event at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. The topics of conversation were centered on how HIV and the likelihood of pathological progression to AIDS disproportionately affects minorities in the LGBTQIA community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual). I say this because I was encouraged to see older members of their congregation actively looking to learn more about the LGBTQIA community through this forum. And while they may have struggled with the definitions and terminology folks of the LGBTQIA community use to identify themselves, the attendees were very actively present in reeducating themselves, and working to develop hearts of acceptance to be safe havens of celebration and not toleration.

And to tie it back to our faith: Jesus himself was a revolutionary. His works, ideas and miracles led to the dissection and development of another Abrahamic religion, providing our reason for being here today. All in all, I've prayed hard to share only words of encouragement today, to rekindle our faith in justice, progression and simple, unselfish, unbiased love for one another. But let me not digress too much into priming you, and rather get straight into the content that I have to share.

### **New Faith:**

“New faith,” is a wide-ranging idea that Meg outlined for me in trying to understand my own thoughts about justice and freedom. Initially, I wanted to discuss complex ideas of how misogyny plagues our daily “somewhat” benign behaviors and interactions. I wanted to deconstruct non-binary gender phobia & hate, specifically in reduced systems of vocabulary that only lead to exclusivity. And I vehemently wanted to talk about privilege; particularly the privilege of access to resources, privilege of race, heterosexuality, cultural norms, privilege of education, privilege as a general concept.

But instead of trying to put on my battle armor and tackle “Big Monster” topics, Meg and Christopher Collins-McNeil, *unbeknownst to them*, summed up these ideas pretty well for me. That being said, my words are not just my own to share, and hopefully I will accurately reflect some of their thoughts as well.

Meg described New Faith to me as this: New Faith is necessary for us to even have the propinquity to trust in the unknown, trust in undiscovered answers or non-answers, as they relate to those aforementioned “Big Monster” topics and more. New faith is our ability to be newly engaged and unsettled with otherwise



traditionally assumed conclusions. Without New Faith, we struggle even to begin dismantling hegemonic and religio-political structures of oppression and vicious power dynamics we deal with now.

New Faith congruently matches the Martin Luther King, Jr's quote that I share: "In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope... And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe." Becoming settled on a linear, binary viewpoint exclusive of other people and their diverse experiences, simply is not representative of the physically spherical universe we live in. We need to work hard to be open to challenging what we might deem as right and wrong, what's normal and abnormal, what's just and unjust.

In my opinion, we must efficiently and consistently provoke and probe the thoughts that have easily become traditional and standard, for we do not live in a black and white world. Complacency in addressing topics of justice and societal behavior is dangerous and should always be contested.

**Action:**

In addition to New Faith, maybe in better words Enriched Faith, we need action. As Chris so comprehensively pointed out to me. "Action" in my understanding doesn't necessarily require that you partner with someone else and together work to achieve a tangible result. Action only requires YOU... We, as individual persons, need to organize our everyday efforts and thoughts into being inclusive with folks we otherwise would set aside, judge or mistreat. We need to question what we once took as is, and flip it upside down to see the beauty of all sides. We need to critically self-reflect on subconscious and conscious actions and how they uphold the chastisement and the systemic and individualistic oppression of certain peoples. Action only requires that You challenge Your own assumptions.

Should you choose to take that action into your physical settings, go with an action plan and overwhelmingly profound love. We cannot passively approach cancerous inequalities built into the DNA and framework of an unjust society.

New Faith and Action, together, will help us combat the "same old same old." It will help the church grow with the world instead of against it. It will bring the same love Jesus had for all, to all. And it will bring you spiritual nutrition like only God can bring.



All this being said, I pay tremendous gratitude and homage to my grandparents and parents for having paved and privileged me to resources and platforms I might not have otherwise had. I give honor to the beams of energy, the lives, the bloody emotions and the stresses given of former peoples to bring us glimpses of success and statues of justice, in a very unjust world. May your day, your month and your year be full of Black History, justice, freedom and so much more than what four weeks in February is set aside for. Celebrate not out of tradition, but because it is necessity to move forward, it is a call to Action of New Faith and because it is a tremendous reminder of how we are not yet done, most likely never will be.

In a speech delivered by a friend of mine, Nick Creegan, at the African American Men of Westchester MLK Youth Legacy Awards Luncheon, Nick drove home the reality of our individual ideas and thoughts garnering great power. Regardless of how you value yourself or how you might be valued by others, your words and your thoughts matter and impact those around you.

From this, I thought about how it is so important to be critically aware of what you're saying and how you're saying it, and how it might directly add or subtract to someone's being, especially when you live in a position of privilege. As my friend Toni Campbell consistently reminds me, words do have immeasurable power and you never know how you might be inducing a system. Consider, for example, the use of qualifiers: How we use qualifiers speaks a great deal to how we innately feel or relate to something or someone.

Maya Angelou captured the elements of resilience with graceful power in "Still I Rise." ... And we are no longer just "the hope of the slave": we are the hope for freedom riders, marchers, protestors, forefathers, foremothers, forepersons, the innocently killed and all those suffering daily from oppression. Grace Church has the faithful power, and each of you has the love... I implore you to use them both to bring good energy into this world.

---

## **STEWARDSHIP**

The Vestry and Stewardship Committee wish to thank all parishioners who pledged and contributed their time, talent, and money in 2017. End of the year financial statements have been mailed. If you have questions about your statement please call Ella Fitzgerald at Grace Church on Thursday mornings (914-949-2874).



If you did not complete your pledge for 2017 and are able to do so now, please put your check in a white envelope with your pledge number and 2017 pledge on the bottom left.

We began the 2018 Stewardship Pledge season on November 20, 2017. We appreciate the many financial pledges for 2018 that we have received. We are asking each parishioner to increase their pledge (if possible) to help Grace with the deficit we are experiencing. We also ask those who haven't made a pledge for 2018 to do so as soon as possible. Pledge forms are in the back of the Church.

We now have parking permits for pledging parishioners for **free** parking on Holy Days that do not fall on a Sunday. Please speak to Charlotte Roberson, Stewardship chairperson or Father Moronta to get a parking permit. The 2018 pink parking permit can be used in the municipal parking lot on the following days:

February 14<sup>th</sup>- Ash Wednesday  
March 29<sup>th</sup>-Maundy Thursday  
March 30<sup>th</sup>-Good Friday  
March 31<sup>st</sup>-Holy Service (Tuesday)  
December 24<sup>th</sup>-Christmas Eve Service (Monday)  
December 25<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Day (Tuesday)

## **MAYORDOMIA**

La Junta Parroquial y el Comité de Mayordomía desea agradecer a todos los feligreses que se comprometieron y contribuyeron con su tiempo, talento y dinero en 2017. Los estados financieros del final del año han sido enviados por correo. Si tiene preguntas sobre su estado, llame a Ella Fitzgerald a Grace Church los jueves por la mañana (914-949-2874). Si no completó su promesa para 2017, y puede hacerlo ahora, por favor coloque su cheque en un sobre blanco con su número de promesa y la promesa de 2017 en la parte inferior izquierda.

Comenzamos la temporada 2018 Promesas de Mayordomía (Stewardship Pledge) el 20 de noviembre de 2017. Agradecemos el gran número de promesas para 2018 que hemos recibido. Estamos pidiendo a cada feligrés que aumente su compromiso (si es posible) para ayudar a Grace con el déficit que estamos experimentando. También les pedimos a aquellos que no se han comprometido con 2018 que lo hagan tan pronto como sea posible. Los formularios de promesa están en la parte posterior la Iglesia.



Ahora tenemos permisos de estacionamiento para aquellos que han hecho su promesa parroquianos para estacionamiento gratuito en Días Santos que no caen en domingo. Por favor hable con Charlotte Roberson, presidenta de mayordomía o el padre Moronta para obtener un permiso de estacionamiento. El permiso de estacionamiento rosado 2018 se puede usar en el estacionamiento municipal los siguientes días:

14 de febrero - Miércoles de ceniza  
29 de marzo-Jueves Santo  
30 de marzo: Viernes Santo  
31 de marzo: sábado Sanrto (Sabado)  
24 de diciembre-Servicio de Nochebuena (lunes)  
25 de diciembre- día de Navidad (martes)

---

## **LOOKING AHEAD!**

**March 11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Move your clock forward. Don't be late for church!**

**March 25 – Palm Sunday, Holy Week**

**March 30 – Good Friday**

**April 1 – Easter**

**May 13 – Mother's Day**

**May 28 – Memorial Day**

## Honoring Black History with Grace

- Karen Odom & Marie Barrows

*Action, in my understanding doesn't necessarily require you to partner with someone else and, together, work to achieve a tangible result. Action only requires YOU... We, as individual persons, need to organize our everyday efforts and thoughts into being inclusive to folks we otherwise would set aside, judge and mistreat. We need to question what once took us as is, and flip it upside to see the beauty of all sides... Action only requires YOU to challenge Your own thoughts.*



With a passionate, inspiring and insightful call to action, our very own Nathaniel Graves returned to Grace as the guest speaker on Sunday, February 4, kicking off our Black

History Celebration. Nathanael shared his thoughts during the service that also included meaningful readings from



Langston Hughes, Michael Jackson, President Barack Obama, and Maya Angelou.

Meaningful music, an expansive coffee hour spread, and parishioners donning African garb highlighted the festive celebration. The festivities continued during the month with a moving solo by acclaimed singer Everett Suttle, a Book Club discussion of **Born A Crime** by Trevor Noah, a Downtown



Music at Grace benefit concert featuring the Highbridge Voices, and celebratory music throughout the month led by Peter Roberts.

---

## **Lifting Up Westchester Summer Camp 2018**



Once again, through the generosity of Grace Church, the Brighter Futures Summer Campers of Lifting Up Westchester can once again look forward to our support to help them enjoy four weeks of laughter, fun, friendship and innocence.

If you did not already know, the large majority of the summer campers either live in homeless shelters or humble living conditions. Little if any family income can be set aside for the luxury of attending summer camp, much less purchasing a new bathing suit. Most of the families struggle with being sure their children are fed and housed.

Because we have traditionally supported the programs of Lifting Up Westchester, we know how much this program assists children who do not have some of the same opportunities of many Westchester children, including many of our children and perhaps, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, too.

Beginning May 20<sup>th</sup> and ending June 17<sup>th</sup>, Linda Gallo (a member of the Lifting Up Westchester Board of Directors) will be collecting either gift cards (Target, Walmart or general gift card) or funds to provide each camper with a gift card in the amount of \$25 to buy a new bathing suit and perhaps a pool towel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact her either in church or via email ([ldg052@aol.com](mailto:ldg052@aol.com)). I also thought you would enjoy seeing some pictures from the 2017 Summer Camp. Please consider what your generosity will provide for children who live amongst us.





---

**OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES  
CONCERNING CHRIST'S DEATH**

As we strive to maintain a meaningful Lenten season, it might be a good discipline to consider the many prophecies found in the Old Testament concerning Christ's death and resurrection.

**Description and Prophecy**

**Fulfillment**

False witnesses accuse him Psalm 27:12	Matthew 26:20-61
Silent when accused Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:60-63
Smitten and spat upon Isaiah 50:6	Mark 14:65
Was hated without a cause Psalm 69:4	John 15:23-25
Crucified with sinners Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Hands and feet pierced Psalm 22:16	John 20:27-28
Mocked and insulted Psalm 22:6-8	Matthew 27:39-40
Given gall and vinegar Psalm 69:21	John 19:29
Hears prophetic words in mockery Psalm 22:7-8	Matthew 27:43
Prays for his enemies Psalm 109:4	Luke 23:34
His side to be pierced Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Soldiers cast lots for his coat Psalm 22:18	Mark 15:24
Not a bone to be broken Psalm 34:20	John 19:33

To be buried with the rich  
Isaiah 53:9

Matthew 27:57-60

His resurrection  
Psalm 16:10

Luke 24:36-48

His ascension  
Psalm 68:18

Luke 24:50-51

Judas' office to be taken by another  
Psalm 109:8

Acts 1:18-20

**THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT JESUS WILL COME AGAIN**

John 14:1-3  
Acts 1:10-11  
Hebrews 9:27-28

Revelation 22:20  
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17  
Matthew 24-37-42  
1 John 3:2

Revelation 1:7  
Philippians 3:20-21  
Mark 14:62

---



**Rest in Peace – Rocco Bueti**



**Rest in Peace – Lucille Breach**



## Farewell Martha Jane and Sharon



*The*  
**ANGELUS**  
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH