



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

March 14, 2019

What's a Parish?

In the Episcopal Church we throw around the word "parish" a lot. But what does it mean?

These days at least, it's largely synonymous with the words "church" or "congregation," and essentially means the local worshipping community.

Historically though, parish was a geographical term, and that's the way it's still used in Louisiana, where it essentially corresponds to the word "county." In England, the word "parish" means a geographical area centered on a specific church. That means that English priests can say something you rarely hear an American priest say: "I have many Hindus in my parish." In theory, anyone residing within the bounds of an English parish - no matter what their religion - a "parishioner" of that church!



Complicating things still further, in the Episcopal Church, the word "parish" indicates a certain type of church, specifically one that is self-supporting and has the right to elect its own rector and vestry (as opposed to a "mission church"). Having said all that, when you say, "Grace is my parish," you are essentially saying the same thing as "Grace is my church." And we're happy when you say either one!

Jonathan+

Lenten Weeknight Worship Starts Tonight

Grace Church is offering a new weekday worship option on Thursdays during Lent, beginning tonight, March 14. The photo above shows where in the church we will worship, just in front of the Messiah Chapel. We will gather at 6 PM on Thursday evenings for prayer, scripture, Eucharist, and song.

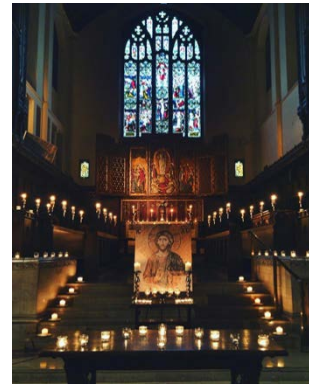
This service will be contemplative in nature and feature music from the Celtic tradition, accompanied by our beautiful concert grand piano. We will be treated to homilies by a different lay preacher each week. Adrienne Southgate will preach tonight, and Mother Lavonne Seifert will be the celebrant.

Invite a friend into a warm, candlelit space and share your Lenten journey with others. The service will last about 45 minutes, and parking is available in the Grace Church lot.

Lenten Compline and Evensong

Please don't miss our next Compline service beginning at 8:00pm this Sunday, March 17, and featuring the Women's Compline Choir. Doors open at 7:30pm for contemplation and prayer, and then at 8:00pm enjoy half an hour of soothing chant, candlelight, and incense.

And mark your calendars as well for our next service of Choral Evensong, which will be Sunday, March 31, at 4:00pm, and will feature music by Rheinberger, Spicer, and Blair.



This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist
with Music

Wednesday 12:00 Noon Eucharist

Thursday 6:00pm Holy Eucharist during Lent

Thursdays at Noon concerts will continue for the Winter/Spring 2019 season through May 23.

Open Doors: Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please encourage your friends or guests to come and visit Grace Church and see the new Pavilion at Grace.



Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking: Please find convenient accessible in the Grace Church parking lot with access from Snow Street. The new wheelchair ramp connects directly from the lot, and you will enter through the new reception entrance of The Pavilion and into the church at ground level.

Parking for Worship: Free parking for Sunday worship is provided:

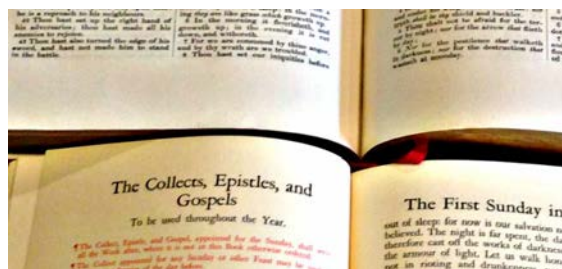
- 1.) in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow;
- 2.) On the **top level only** of the PPAC parking garage, for which the entrance is on Weybosset Street. A stairway from the top level leads right to Chapel Street across from the church; and
- 3.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.

March 17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

For the text of this Sunday's readings, [please click here](#).



This week from the Episcopal Church: [The Way of Love in Lent - PRAY.](#)

[Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here](#).


Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

Discernment Workshops The Revs. Pam Gregory and Jennifer West, both trained by Suzanne Farnham in the "Listening Hearts" method of discernment, will present *Discernment: Are You Listening to your Life?*, with one workshop offered at St. Luke's in East Greenwich on Saturday, March 16, and another at St. John's in Barrington on Saturday, April 6. Both workshops are from 8:30am to 3:00pm. For more information or to register, [please visit this page](#) on the diocesan website, and click the Eventbrite link for your preferred date. The cost of registration is \$5, and includes the cost of lunch and morning coffee and pastries.

ECC 70th Anniversary Gala On June 1, 2019, Celebrate 70 years of joyful ministry at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI, and support future programming for children including inner city youth, children with special needs, the LGBTQ+ community, and individuals awaiting adoption. [Tickets are now on sale](#) for this 70th Anniversary Gala.

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