



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

January 31, 2019

## Sign of the Cross at the Gospel Reading

A few years ago, I wrote in these pages an explanation of making the sign of the cross - how and when and why we do it. Today's spotlight looks more closely at a particular form of making the sign of the cross: the one that happens only once during the service on Sunday morning, as the priest is about to read the day's Gospel passage.

In this one case, as the priest says, "The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (or John, Mark, or Matthew)," many parishioners will use their right thumb to trace a small cross on their forehead, lips, and heart. This is a physical manifestation of the following prayer: "May the words of Christ be in my mind and on my lips and in my heart."



As with the more common form of making the sign of the cross, this Gospel version is totally optional for Episcopalians. If you are moved to make this sign of the cross, however, you can silently recite the prayer above as you do so. This "action prayer" is a sign of how deeply we treasure the words and deeds of Jesus as we receive them in the four gospels.

Jonathan+

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## Lessons & Carols for Candlemas This Saturday

Please join us this Saturday, February 2, 4:00pm for a special Lessons & Carols for Candlemas featuring the Brown University Chorus directed by Frederick Jodry, and with organist Vince Edwards.

This free event, presented by the [American Guild of Organists](#),



[Rhode Island Chapter](#), will feature music by Victoria, Holst, Hassler, Eccard and Bortniansky. A reception will follow.

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## Collegium Ancora Concerts

[Collegium Ancora](#), the choral ensemble in residence at Grace, will present a selection of choral masterworks written for upper voices (soprano & alto) and lower voices (tenor & bass). This varied program is full of both familiar and lesser-known works ranging from the 1600s to the 1900s, including composers from Italy (Palestrina), Germany (Brahms, Rheinberger, Schumann), France (Poulenc), Spain (Casals), England (Le Bas, Rutter), Ireland (Stanford), and the USA (Thompson).



**ALL ABOUT THAT  
BASS & TREBLE**

a concert of high and low voices

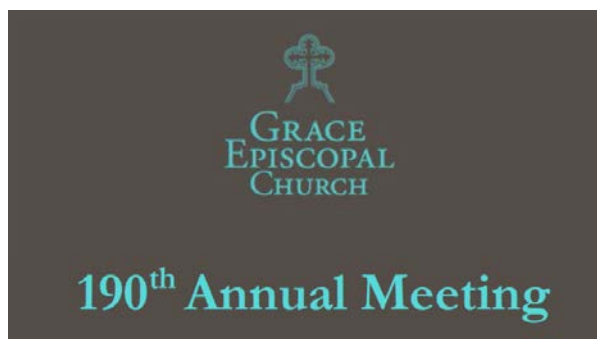
**February 10 at 4pm**, Grace Church in Providence  
**February 16 at 4pm**, Emmanuel Church in Newport, RI  
**February 17 at 4pm**, Grace Church in Providence (Abridged, Sensory & Family-friendly show)

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## Grace Church Finance Presentation and Annual Meeting

The Finance & Investment Committee will make a presentation of Grace's finances to the congregation on Sunday February 17 at 11:30am in The Pavilion at Grace.

And the following week on Sunday, February 24, please join us for the 190th Annual Meeting of Grace Church in Providence. The meeting will take place in The Pavilion beginning at 11:15am on February 24. All are welcome to attend.



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## This Week at Grace

**Weekly Worship Schedule:**

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist  
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist  
with Music  
Wednesday 12:00 Noon Eucharist



**Thursdays at Noon concerts** will return for February 7 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.

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## 20s/30s Group Potluck Dinner February 7

Please join Grace's lively and growing group of 20s/30s for a Community Dinner on the 1st Thursday of each month in the Pavilion at 7:00pm. The next dinner will be February 7. Please bring a dish to share if you are able, and feel free to contact [20s30s@gracepvd.org](mailto:20s30s@gracepvd.org) with questions.



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## Two Upcoming Events at the Episcopal Conference Center

Please click on either of the below flyers for more information or to register.

**Lighten up!** The Reverend Scott Lee is the rector of St. Barnabas Church in Warwick, and in addition to being a wonderful priest he is genuine, and friendly, and joyful. Sara Barker is a professional dance instructor - so essentially she helps people have fun for a living! She happens also to be your parish administrator's wife. These two bright and warm individuals will help us spend the weekend participating in light-hearted "camp" activities, while also

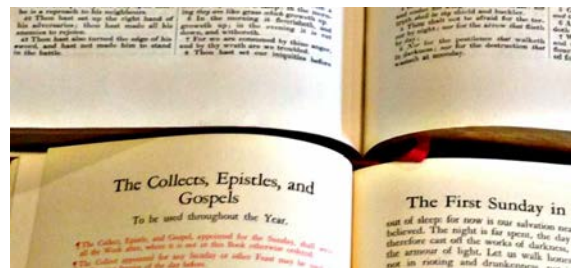
inviting us to consider how we might lighten our load emotionally, spiritually, and practically as we navigate this complicated world. [Please join ECC](#) for a weekend that is sure to be special, relaxing, and fun!

**ECC 70th Anniversary Gala** 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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## February 3, 2019 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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 Feast of the Presentation](#). [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.

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## A New Heart for Lent and Easter

What is your hope for yourself this upcoming Lent? Can you imagine it as season of genuine repentance - a powerful change of heart that stretches you into a stronger and more whole version of your current self? Suppose taking on this challenge during Lent presented an opportunity for you to grow beyond the limits of who you are now... to grow into an even fuller embodiment of whom God has created you to be.

Grace Church will present a special program for Lent and Easter led by Maria DeCarvalho, an Episcopal Priest who has previously served as Associate Rector here at Grace, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John, and Theologian in Residence at the American Cathedral in Paris.

Today, as co-Director of [Minds at Work](#), Maria is an executive coach working with leaders committed to their own personal development. Maria believes that this work resonates

powerfully with the promises of God, vividly expressed in the words of the Prophet Ezekiel: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you."

The program is titled *A New Heart: Spiritual Practice for Powerful Personal Change*, and seeks to identify and remove inner obstacles that may stand between you and the realization of your dearest life goals. A New Heart will consist of three large-group sessions held in our own beautiful pavilion on the following dates and times:

**Sunday, March 10; 12:00pm - 2:30pm**

**Saturday, March 30; 9:00am - 11:00am**

**Saturday, May 11; 9:00am - 11:00am**

Coffee and light fare will be provided, as well as a program manual. Participants will be encouraged to gather for informal small-group off-site sessions. Tuition for this program is \$50, though **scholarships are readily available to Grace Church parishioners by contacting the rector**. And importantly, any proceeds from this program that are in excess of direct costs will support Grace to Go, the new meal-service ministry here at Grace.

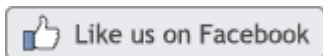
To register, please [click here to reserve your spot](#) or call the parish office at 401-331-3225, and then drop-off, mail, or place in the Sunday offering plate a check made out to Grace Church in Providence with "A New Heart" indicated on the memo line. If submitting on a Sunday, please place the check in an envelope indicating "Attn: Parish Administrator".

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## Connect with Grace

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

[Listen to Recent Sermons](#)



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*The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the*

*gospel through worship, proclamation and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.*