**My brothers and sisters in Christ,**

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and the Son, and ✠ Holy Spirit.

Lent is forty days not including Sundays, as Sundays are a celebration of Our Lord’s Resurrection. During these forty days a practice of prayer, fasting and alms giving is at the forefront. This is also a time for preparation for Baptism or re-affirming one’s Baptism. In the early church Baptism only occurred once a year and that was at the Easter Vigil. We refrain from festival activities like weddings until Lent and Holy Week are complete. There are acceptable exceptions to this practice like an unexpected deployment of someone in the military.

Lent is associated with self-penitence which leads to the question of self-denial, i.e., what I am going to give up for Lent. Some say strong drink and chocolate head the list of items to give up. I say consider what you will continue after Lent. As soon as Lent is over, the chocolate is back. Could this be a time to start a new discipline, such as of morning and evening prayer that continues to be practiced after Lent?

The Lenten season brings changes in the Sunday liturgy. The color for Lent is purple to represent the royal sovereignty of Our Lord. The Hymn of Praise and Alleluias or Hallelujahs are absent from our Lenten services. During Lent we gather via zoom on Tuesday 7:30-8:30pm to study the various salvific acts of God. Joining us is very easy. Go to Zoom.com and download their app. Click on the app and enter this ID number **939 4860 7623. *Please join us.***

The peace of the Lord is always with you,

**Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠**



**TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2022**

**Income for the month of February was $8,360.33 (budget $8,464.00); expenditures totaled $8,494.56 (budget $8,464.00), resulting in loss for the month of $134.23.**

**The book value of our endowment fund is $62,847.24; market value as of February 28, 2022 is $68,997.81.**

**Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me.**

**Judy Ball,** **Treasurer**

**FEED MY SHEEP**

*“If you give some of your own food to [feed] those who are hungry and to satisfy [the needs of] those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun.” Isaiah 58:10 GW*

Please keep the “Feed My Sheep” (FMS) ministry in your prayers.

Carol Grove 

**Checks may be made out to Grace Church with a notation to FMS and mailed to Grace Church at the address shown in the footer of this document. Cash or checks can also be put in an envelope and left in the collection plate.**

**Are you interested in helping Ukraine? Did you know the Episcopal Church has a fund just for that purpose?**

**You may contribute on-line through: https://support.episcopalrelief.org/ukraineresponse.**

 **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

[This Photo](http://www.pngall.com/gift-png) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/)

[This Photo](http://www.freeimageslive.co.uk/free_stock_image/colourful-hearts-jpg) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dave & Jennifer Coates** | **1-Apr** |
| **Renee McLeod** | **6-Apr** |
| **Genna Warren** | **7-Apr** |
| **Yanina Escorcia** | **9-Apr** |
| **Dee Garrett** | **14-Apr** |
| **Katie Helbock** | **23-Apr** |
| **James and Marilyn Ottevaere** | **30-Apr** |

**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – March 2022**

Happy Spring to one and all!

With Spring comes the glorious celebration of the resurrection of Christ, as mentioned in Fr. Michael’s opening words. ✞Holy Week services that will soon be upon us. Please invite five friends, neighbors, and/or relatives that are not churched. Especially, include the children in your invitation; on Easter Sunday, we will not be hunting eggs (maybe next year,) but we will have Christian activity bags for each child. It will be a blessed day and we have high hopes that it will be a day of sunshine so that we may worship on the lawn!

* **Sunday, April 10th, Palm Sunday Service 10AM at Grace**
* **Thursday, April 14th, Maundy Thursday Service 7:00PM at St. Luke's**
* **Friday, April 15th, Good Friday Service 7:00PM at St. Luke’s**
* **Sunday, April 17th, Easter Service 10AM at Grace on the lawn, weather permitting**

**Masks are optional. While there will be no Easter egg hunt, there will be surprises for the children on Easter Sunday.**

All Holy Week services will be held at either Grace or St. Luke’s (see above✞) with the exception of the **Easter Vigil** (the night before Easter Sunday) which will be held at St. James in Warrenton. Below is an excerpt from St. James’ webpage:

***“April 16 – The Great Vigil of Easter,*** *Saturday 8:00pm,* ***[St. James Episcopal Church, Warrenton, VA]***

*Possibly the most beautiful service of the church year, the Easter Vigil begins outside in our courtyard with the kindling of a fire from which the paschal candle is lit.  After processing into the church, each person lights their candle from that paschal candle as the service begins in darkness.  While still in the tomb we read of God’s saving work throughout history.  Then after we have proclaimed our new life in Christ through the renewing of our baptismal covenant, we reign in Easter with the lighting the altar candles, the illuminating the worship area, and singing and ringing of bells.  Then we joyfully celebrate that first Easter Eucharist.  The service actually takes us from death to new life and we really experience that Easter moment.   If you have not been to the Vigil, please consider making it your Easter celebration. Also, following the service, Lent is officially over, we will celebrate with a champagne and chocolate reception in the parish hall.”*

On Monday, April 11th, we will be holding another “Operation Soup” at the Parish Hall. Stay tuned – more information to come!

Blessings,

*Mary*

**AMAZON SMILE FOR GRACE CHURCH**

**Don’t forget to sign up with Amazon Smile to have 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items given**

**to Grace Church at no cost to you! You can also go to the Grace Church website home page and**

**click on the link there.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*AmazonSmile Shopping App for Android Users Now Available\*\*\*\*\*\***

**You can now support Grace in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow**

**these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations to Grace from your**

**Android device.**

**\* If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android**

**device.**

**\* View Settings and select AmazonSmile.**

**\* Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.**