

March 23, 2022

From Fr. John

“Thoughts and prayers with _____.”

The news is filled with story after story on the Russian/Ukraine war. There is no such thing as a good war. Some cannot be avoided. Some are more necessary than others. But every war is filled with waste. The wasted money of the war itself; the wasted money in having to rebuild cities that should not have been destroyed; but worst of all, the wasted human lives. The devastation that we see and hear about on the evening news is breathtaking, and heartbreaking.

What do we, Episcopalians in Alexandria, LA, do in response to the horrible news coming out of Ukraine? There is one thing I would suggest not doing. Please do not post or say that your “thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainians.”

The phrase, “thoughts and prayers with _____,” has become so ubiquitous in America that it has lost every bit of meaning it might ever have had. Now when people utter, or write those words, there is a good chance that there will not be much thought given, and likely no prayers either.

If it crosses your mind to say those words, stop and think about what it is you really want to do, or say. In the case of Ukraine, say that you are praying for wisdom and compassion for the leaders of the countries; and for peace and healing for the people who are suffering the effects of the war. Then set aside the time and pray those prayers. But also consider giving money to Episcopal Relief and Development (episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis). ERD are experts at disaster relief, whether the disaster is natural or manmade. Their website says, “Your gift will help provide cash, blankets, hygiene supplies and other needed assistance to families from Ukraine.” If you give to ERD, that is exactly where it will go, not to excessive overhead.

Instead of platitudes, let’s provide assistance as we can. And let’s actually pray for the people who are hurting, that the God of all comfort might give those who are suffering, that healing and peace that can only come from the grace of God, through the love of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. John+



Wednesday Night Offering During Lent

Dinner and Fellowship begin at 6:00 p.m.

[Tonight's Menu: jambalaya, potato leek soup, French bread, and a dessert.]

Meals are \$5 for adults and free for anyone 18 and younger.

The Youth meet at 6:30 p.m. for Christian Formation and Fellowship.

Adults meet in the Parlor at 6:45 p.m. for "**Revive**"! A relationship with God, framed by Jesus' teachings, is the most transformative gift the church can give our long-serving, dedicated servants of Christ. Join us as we discuss prayer.

Stations of the Cross

Consider adding the **Stations of the Cross** to your Lenten devotions and disciplines. The service takes place **every Friday** during Lent at **12:15**

p.m. in the Nave of the church. It only takes about 30 minutes and you will feel spiritually refreshed and have a deeper understanding of Christ's journey to The Cross.



Community Breakfast

Come meet some of our neighbors this Sunday as we enjoy our delicious and free Community Breakfast from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.! If you wish to volunteer with meal prep and/or serving, plan to arrive at 7:30 a.m.

No coffee hour this Sunday.

Make Palm Crosses

No previous experience needed!
Training offered on the spot!

Saturday - April 9
9:00 a.m. - Parish Hall



Maundy Thursday Vigil Returns

Jesus said, "could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Matthew 26:40 (NRSV)

The Maundy Thursday (Thursday in Holy Week) liturgy is a very powerful one. But perhaps the most moving part of the service comes at the end, when the altar area of the church is stripped of everything that makes it look grand, and perhaps all that makes it look "occupied." The end of the Maundy Thursday service reminds us of that place and time in which Jesus was arrested and taken away, leaving the Disciples alone.

The period of time between The Last Supper and sunrise on Good Friday is commemorated by a Gethsemane Watch, or Maundy Thursday Vigil. Beginning this Sunday there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to stay in the Chapel for one overnight hour on April 14/15. There will be an Alexandria Police Department officer on premises all night for security. There will be reading and prayer resources available for those who participate.

Eggs Needed

St. James is having a hunt! An egg hunt! Actually 2 egg hunts! Easter Day at 9:30 a.m.! One for children ages 5 and under will be in the patio off the Parish Hall. The other one for ages 6 - 10 in the area around the Denly Patio.



Donations of plastic eggs filled with pre-wrapped candy are being accepted! Place in the blue crate in the Parish Hall.



Easter Flower Memorials

It is the custom of St. James at Easter to invite our parish family to make a contribution to the glory of God and in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one. This is not only an appropriate way to honor those we love, but these gifts allow for the festive decoration of the church. If this is your wish, please send your donation along with the names of those you wish to remember to the church office no later than Tuesday, April 12th. Offering envelopes are also in the church pew racks. (You may email the names to the office for clarity in spelling, as well: info@stjamesla.org.)

Helping Ukrainian Families

Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with Anglican agencies and ecumenical partners to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of Ukrainians fleeing violence in Europe. People quickly packed up and fled Ukraine to safety and are now in need of basic supplies and will need long-term support. Your contribution to the Episcopal Relief & Development Ukraine Crisis Response Fund will help provide cash, blankets and other items.

To make a donation, please fill out the coupon below and mail it in with your check or credit card information. You can also contribute online to the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund at episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis. Thank you for your compassion and prayers. With your partnership, we are working together for lasting change.

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Please make checks payable to Episcopal Relief & Development. Mail to P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield VA 22116-7058. **OR**

FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS: Please charge my gift to my: VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover. My gift to the International Disaster Response Fund to assist those who are in need. \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

Name _____
Name of your church - City _____

Address _____
Account number - Expiration date _____

City, State, Zip _____
Name on card _____

Your email address _____
Signature _____

Additions & Corrections to Church Directory

Only one correction: Theresa Louviere Levy: Cell 318.623.9045

Several additions since the home phones of many were omitted:

Marie Durham 318.442.8764
 Betty Gaiennie 318.452.4225
 Sue Ellen Jackson 318.443.7657
 Ruthlyn Jarvis 318.794.2799
 Jim Marshal 318.442.9747
 Sara Marshall 318. 776.5148
 Melinda Mikell 318.442.8442
 Minnie Mikell 318.443.1505
 Jonalyn Reynolds 318.542.9921
 Ann Robichaux 318.787.3732
 Charlotte Sterling 318.487.8480



Worship



March 27th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

In-person Worship @ 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Childcare is available at 10:00 AM!

[Click here for the readings.](#)

March 27th
 Evening Prayer
 Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
 Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

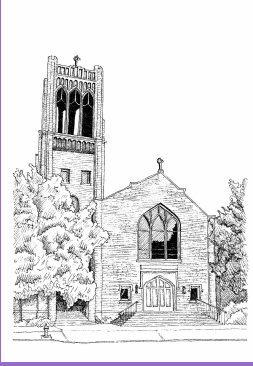
New Orleans and the Arabi neighborhood, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Easton Chase, Natosha and Family, Jack Bender, Anna Stapleton, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Jim Leggett, Charlotte Sterling, Tim and Alexis Heflin, Matthew Fontanille, Jaxson McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Kristie Fresh, Sawyer, John, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in March (day):

Alexis Heflin (1), Melinda Mikell (1), Janet Ahrens (5), Elizabeth Drell (6), Randy Despino (8), Shepard Searcy (9), Randy Welch (13), Julie Despino (14), Bobby Levy (15), Barbara Moorehead (16), Wayne Moorehead (21), Alex Norton (22), Tom McBride (25), Don Kramer (27), Bryce Dixon (28), Betty Gaiennie (29).



[Visit our Website](#)

St. James Episcopal Church | 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301 | 318.445.9845

