

The Grace Vine

February 2024

Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends

By Bette Brooks

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord

March 19

All that we know of Joseph we learn from the first two chapters of Matthew and of Luke. Otherwise, he is mentioned only in passing in Luke 3:23; John 1:45; John 6:42 as the supposed father of Jesus. (Mark does not mention him at all.)

In the face of circumstances where a man of lesser character might have reacted very differently, Joseph graciously assumed the role of Jesus' father. He is well remembered in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy Jesus, and for his tender affection and care for Mary, during the twelve years and more that he was their protector.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. (The Gospels use the Greek word Tekton, which means "builder," as in "architect." It has been suggested that he may have been a mason or a metalworker, or a building contractor. In favor of the traditional translation of carpenter, builder, or architect, we have a remark in the writings of Justin Martyr who was born in Palestine, probably around 100. He wrote that he had seen plows and ox-yokes still in use which were said to have been made in the carpenter-shop at Nazareth. We may not believe that these claims were all accurate; however, they are testimony to what the Christians of Palestine in the early second century believed that Joseph's occupation had been, and this is an idea continuously handed down in the community there since the early first century.) Because of the silence of the Gospels, and because Jesus, while on the cross, entrusted Mary to the care of John, it is generally believed that Joseph died a natural death after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:41-51), but before the Baptism of Jesus when He was thirty. Joseph's influence during those early years must have been tremendous. When Jesus spoke of God as being like a loving Father, He was using a word that he had first learned as a child to apply to Joseph. Joseph stands as a testimony to the value of simple everyday human things, and especially that human thing called "fatherhood."

PRAYER

O God, who called Your servant Joseph to be the faithful Guardian of Your incarnate Son, and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to follow his example in constant worship of You and obedience to Your commands, that our homes may be sanctified by Your presence, and our children nurtured in a sense of awe and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.

Sunday, February 4		8:00 & 10:00 AM Morning Prayer		5 Epiphany	
Celebrant	The Rev. William Snyder	1st Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31		
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	Psalm	147:1-12, 21c		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 9:16-23		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	Mark 1:29-39		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald				
Counters	Carol Marotta & Laurie Barney				
Sunday, February 11		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		Last Epiphany	
Celebrant	TBD	1st Reading	2 Kings 2:1-12		
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Carol Marotta	Psalm	50:1-6		
Greeters	Barb Popiel	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 4:3-6		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	Mark 9:2-9		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
Counters	Midge Myers & Carol Marotta				
Wednesday, February 14		7:00 PM Holy Eucharist		Ash Wednesday	
Celebrant	Rev. Tom Furrer	1st Reading	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17		
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	103		
Lectors	Jeff & Martha Croll	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21		
Counters	Midge Myers & Carol Marotta				
Sunday, February 18		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		1 Lent	
Celebrant	TBD	1st Reading	Genesis 9:8-17		
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Maryjane Furrer	Psalm	25:1-9		
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	2nd Reading	1 Peter 3:18-22		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	Mark 1:9-15		
Coffee Hosts	8am Debbie Shorts & Rick Lashley 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk				
Counters	Midge Myers & Carol Marotta				

Thank you!
Thank you!

Our thanks & appreciation to those who serve & help at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **John McDonald** for getting the furnace working one cold morning.
- **Everyone** who donated to Ervin's retirement party.
- **Kingsland Pretorius & Carol Marotta** for getting started on the church inventory.
- **Barb Popiel** for taking donations to the Center of Hope.
- **All those who pray** for our Grace Church family and for Grace Church.

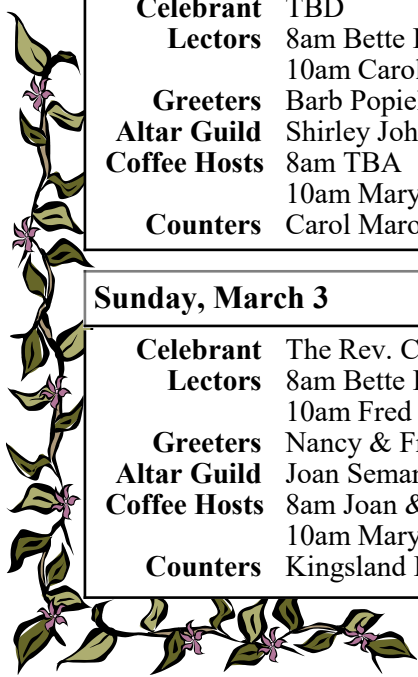


Sunday, February 25 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **2 Lent**

Celebrant TBD	1st Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Lectors 8am Bette Brooks 10am Carol Marotta	Psalm 22:22-30
Greeters Barb Popiel	2nd Reading Romans 4:13-25
Altar Guild Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel Mark 8:31-38
Coffee Hosts 8am TBA 10am Maryjane Furrer	
Counters Carol Marotta & Laurie Barney	

Sunday, March 3 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **3 Lent**

Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Exodus 20:1-17
Lectors 8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	Psalm 19
Greeters Nancy & Fred Lundgren	2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Altar Guild Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder	Gospel John 2:13-22
Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald	
Counters Kingsland Pretorius & TBD	



Lent Program & Fellowship

Tuesdays in Lent

Feb. 28th–March 28th

Our Lenten Meal and Study will be held the five **Tuesdays of Lent, February 20th through March 19th**. A light meal of soup and fellowship will begin at 6pm. The study begins at 6:30, and we'll end with Compline at 7:20. Carolyn Englert will lead the study. We look forward to good and meaningful discussion among the group and invite you and yours to join us for this time of study and fellowship. A signup sheet will be in the parish hall.



Birthdays

- 2nd Dale Espey
- 14th Tim Lewicki
- 15th Yuka Lewicki
- 16th Nancy Lundgren
- 22nd Luke Kearsey
- 27th Larry Allison
- 29th Fred Lundgren

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Baptisms

- 11th Nancy Ervin
- 14th Emily Summy
- 29th Kirsten Seman



Did You Know?...



There are several members of our church community that are in need prayers. **Sally Dier** has been in the hospital and is now home and doing better, and husband **Dennis** had his knee replaced and is on the mend. **Jameson Patrick** had surgery on his leg to strengthen his walk and is now home. **Paige Paxton** had a fall and was in the hospital. **Doris Whipple** was in the hospital to have a botched surgery repaired. **Sue & Bruce Ahrens** are now in Vista Veranda home on Chestnut Street in Ravenna. **Tim Splinter** will be going in the hospital to have his ankle rebuilt. **Gail Richards** is going to have surgery. And **Rev. Carol** has been on a sabbatical to be with **Maynard**. He is now at the Cleveland Clinic, where they are trying to manage his pain. Please keep all these people in your prayers, send a note or card and let them know we all care about them...

If you don't know about our Christmas Eve service – it was wonderful. You all know that Christmas Eve came on a Sunday this year. So, the church service on Sunday morning both a 8am and 10am service was Advent IV and of course the 10pm evening service was our Christmas Eve service. Not knowing how many people would return for the last service it was a pleasant surprise to see the church pews full. Well, not completely full – but there were a lot of people there. It was a wonderful service and thanks to **Martha Croll, Tim Lewicki, and the choir** the music was great...

Many thanks to **Barb Popiel**, our senior warden for keeping things running around here. We have our annual meeting even with Rev. Carol gone. And Barb has been on top of everything that needs to be done...

A reception for **Nancy & Jim Ervin** was held on January 21st after the 10am service. After almost 40 years of service to Grace Church as Sextons it is a well-deserved tribute to two every hard working people. And sad to say it was time to give it up. Thanks to everyone who brought food and contributed to the gift that was given to the Ervins. It was so nice to see their boys **Michael and Scott** along with their granddaughter **Kenzie** and daughter-in-law here to celebrate with them. Thanks to **Cathy Potisuk and Marsha Snyder** for decorating the parish hall and making two vases of flowers that were given to Nancy...

Of course, the next Sunday would be the Annual Meeting so we didn't have to take the tables and chairs down until then...

Laurie Barney spent time in Pittsburg to be with her son and babysitting her granddaughter while the family moved to a new home. I'm sure that was a great help...

Thanks to **Fr. Tom Furrer** for his help while Carol is on sabbatical...

Shirley Johnson has been taking pictures of all our events and we posted a photo of Ervin's reception. Take a look!...

Thanks to our Junior Warden, **Carol Marotta and John McDonald** for purchasing the new stove in the parish hall kitchen. It's wonderful and it looks great in the kitchen; **Cathy Potisuk** was happy to be the first to use the oven...

Bonnie Quay and Tommy are in Florida for a short visit and will be back soon...

Rick Taylor is also in Florida for the winter. When he called, I was hoping he was basking in the sunshine; however, he said their weather wasn't what they hoped for. But, it wasn't freezing either Rick.

Tim, Marcia and Eric Splinter were involved in Garrettsville Curtains Up Theatre's production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the end of January. Marcia and Eric were on the stage as secondary characters in the four short stories and Tim managed all the sets and lights and sound. A busy crew they all are.

Ash Wednesday Services February 14 7:00 PM

Grace Church will be holding two services on Ash Wednesday, each including the Ash Wednesday liturgy, imposition of ashes, and the Holy Eucharist. Please plan to join us.



The Bulletin Board

Breakfast Club

February 15th
8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

Everyone is invited to join the group!
We order off the menu and pay for our
own meals.



Outreach Projects

Center of Hope (red wagon) -Peanut Butter, Ramen Noodles, Mac n cheese, Cans of Tuna/Chicken

Center of Hope - Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, and Dental Floss. We will also be collecting childrens socks and underwear all year.
Also, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, and Dental Floss.

APL - List of needs is on the container in the parish hall

Ravenna High School - Male/Female Deodorant, Body Wash, other hygiene products, Unscented Wipes, and Laundry Detergent which is sent home with the students.

Blessing Bags - We will be starting this ministry again for the rest of the winter months. The past group handling this was able to collect items for 20 bags.

Our goal is 10 bags to START. We will need 10 of each of: Gloves, Thermal Socks, Beef Sticks, Crackers, Candy Bars, Toothpaste/Brushes, Wipes, Deodorant, and Snacks, etc.

They will be placed in individual ziploc bags to be given to the homeless.

This ministry will run from January thru March 2024.

Please help with these Outreach Projects. There are many in need.
Thank You for any assistance you can give.





The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector
The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)
Kingsland Prtorius (2023)
Midge Myers (2024)
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2025)
Kay Wise (2025)

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