

Annunciation is a place...
To be included
To be honest
To be empowered
To be challenged
To find hope



Parish News

for the Week of Sunday, December 3, 2023

Worship Bulletin The First Sunday of Advent [Click here](#)

Poinsettia Gifts

Giving toward our Christmas flowers is a great way to honor a loved one and/or celebrate a blessing in your life. Donation forms and envelopes are on the Communications Center in the Narthex. Thank you!



Convention Update

After three years of conducting the business of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago via online Zoom meetings, we were able to once again, discuss and argue the resolutions, vote for the many diocesan positions, attend workshops and listen to Bishop Jake Owensby (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana) and Bishop Paula Clark (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago) all in person at the Western Hotel in Lombard on November 17th and 18th. Annunciation of our Lady Church was represented by seven members of the Parish; the three delegates, John Anderson, Debbie Rakestraw and myself and four clergy; Pastor Jenni, Deacon Anne, Rev. Jane and Deacon Linda.

There was a true sense of community and camaraderie in the Great Ballroom that we used to meet, discern, vote, pray, and worship during the two days of the convention. We listened to Bishop Paula, in her sermon at the Friday afternoon Eucharist, talk about the parable of the Vine Grower and how we are to abide in God's love and to abide in Jesus. She discussed how the pruning the vine will make it more fruitful and that the best days

are yet to come.

Bishop Owensby, in his keynote address to the convention, discussed the concepts of hope, wishful thinking and religious optimism. He referred to St Paul's discussion of faith, hope and love and that they are the foundations of Christian life. He also suggested that the prospect of getting what we want is what keeps us going in this world. Bishop Owensby asked everyone at each table in the convention hall to discuss how we felt about hope and wishful thinking. We had a very engaging and thought provoking discussion at our table. Both the sermon and the keynote address are available on Youtube and I highly recommend viewing them

[Click here to view Bishop Paula's address](#)

[Click here to view Bishop Owensby's keynote](#)

Once again, at the Annual Parish Meeting in January, we will elect three delegates to represent the Parish at the 187th (2024) Diocesan Convention. Please take some time to discern if you are willing to represent our parish. Unfortunately, the 2024 Convention will be conducted online because the Diocese has decided to not renew the contract with the Western Hotel, however there is hope that the Diocese can locate an alternate venue for the 2025 Convention that better meets their needs and Budget. I predict that there will be a lot of discerning at the Diocese next year,

Charles O'Morchoe



Sacred Ground Study and Fellowship

Kicks off January 21, 2024 and small groups meet every other week until June 2024

We have been invited by First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, to join in Sacred Ground, a study and fellowship addressing the ongoing

work of equity and inclusion. This study is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on black, indigenous, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history on race and racism while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. Participants will have the option of both in-person virtual/zoom groups. The study groups will meet every other week from January through June and one of the in-person groups will meet here at Annunciation.

[For more information on Sacred Ground, click here](#)

[To sign-up for one of the small groups, click here.](#)

For more information, please speak with Deacon Anne or Pastor Jenni.

COOKIE WALK December 17, 2023

COOKIE WALK 2023

Thank you, bakers! We're currently at 46 varieties of Committed Cookies. The goal is 65+, so let's keep those forms rolling in! Extended family and friends are welcome to contribute as bakers, too. A minimum of 6 dozen per variety is requested. Sign up [digitally](#) or at church.



We're also ready for volunteers to sign up! There are

multiple ways to help on Cookie Walk weekend. [Sign-up here to volunteer!](#)
 Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the season!
 ~Deb Gallinger & Samantha Robison

1	BAKLAVA	ELIZABETH DANOS
2	BLUEBERRY OATMEAL COOKIES	WAYNE MORAN
3	BROWNIE BOMBS	CAROL ANDERSON
4	CHERRY OATMEAL COOKIES	WAYNE MORAN
5	CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES	STACY MILLER
6	CHOCOLATE COVERED PECAN PIE BALLS	ELAINE O'NEIL
7	CHOCOLATE NUT DELIGHTS	CAROL SLUGA
8	CHOCOLATE PINWHEELS	SUSAN O'MORCHOE
9	CHRISTMAS SWIRL	SUE LAMAGDELEINE
10	CRANBERRY BLISS BARS	JANE SCHAEFER
11	CRANBERRY OATMEAL COOKIES	WAYNE MORAN
12	CRANBERRY ORANGE SHORTBREAD	JANE PENTICOFF
13	CRANBERRY WHITE CHOCOLATE MACADAMIA COOKIES	TOM CRAFTON
14	CREAM WAFERS	DEB GALLINGER
15	DATE BARS	BARBARA PURCELL
16	DECORATED SUGAR COOKIES	SAMANTHA ROBISON
17	DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CHIP CANDY CANE KISS COOKIES	STACEY WALLACE
18	DUNKED RICE KRISPIE COOKIE	SUE LAMAGDELEINE
19	FESTIVE MACAROONS	STAN GALLINGER
20	GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE COOKIE BARS	CAROL ANDERSON
21	GINGER SNAPS	SUSAN O'MORCHOE
22	GINGERBREAD COOKIES	STACY MILLER
23	HOLLY CRACKLES	BILL HAGAN
24	ITALIAN CHRISTMAS COOKIES	LAURA O'CONNOR
25	LEMON CRISP COOKIES	BARB MCNEILL
26	MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES	LAURA O'CONNOR
27	MINT CHOCOLATE MERINGUE	GIN BOSSERMAN
28	OATMEAL CRAISIN COOKIES	STACY MILLER
29	OLD FASHIONED CARAMELS	BETH HAGAN
30	OLD FASHIONED MINCEMEAT BARS	DEB MODDE
31	PEANUT BUTTER BLOSSOMS	ANDREA LINDBLAD
32	PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES	SUSAN O'MORCHOE
33	RAISIN COCONUT TREASURES	BARB MCNEILL
34	RASPBERRY ANGEL BARS	JANE SCHAEFER
35	RED VELVET PEANUT BUTTA BLOSSOMS	KIM FULTON
36	ROLO COOKIES	PONDELIKS
37	RUSSIAN TEACAKES	TERRY KLINE
38	SANTA'S WHISKERS	JANE SCHAEFER
39	SCOTCH CRISPIES	JANE PENTICOFF
40	SPRITZ CHRISTMAS TREES	CAROL ANDERSON
41	SUGAR COOKIES	STACY MILLER
42	THREE LAYER BROWNIES	PAM MOORE
43	THUMB PRINT COOKIES	TERRY KLINE
44	TOFFEE SQUARES TOPPED WITH CHOCOLATE	SANDI HUCKER
45	TWIX COOKIES	WILL HAGAN
46	WHITE CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY BARS	PAM MOORE



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The monthly meeting of the Prayer Shawl ministry is on hiatus. We still welcome your gifts of knitted or crocheted to the on-going ministry. You can give your completed shawls to Susan O'Morchoe.

Publicity Committee

We are looking for volunteers to join with the Wardens and Rector to form a publicity committee to start working on spreading the good news of our parish. If you are interested, please speak with Charles O'Morchoe or Pastor Jenni.

Journeying Through Grief

Elizabeth Danos has order forms for the booklets in the Journeying Through Grief series from Stephen's Ministries. The forms will be available on the Communication Wall.

Readers and Wreath lighters for Advent

Our practice during the Advent season is to invite members of the congregation to read the opening meditation and light the candles of the Advent wreath. If you would like to do this part of our Advent services, please let Pastor Jenni know. You will get a copy of the meditation and instructions for lighting the candles.

Photo Consent for Parish Publications

We have a new photo consent form for the Parish. You can download and print a copy of the form [here](#) and return it to the office.

Also, you can fill the form out electronically, [here](#).

It is the goal to have everyone in the parish provide your preferences for you and/or your children. Please fill it out as soon as possible.



C4K Giving Tree

What C4K is About and How You Can Help

Every year hundreds of children go without proper clothing. Caring for Kids Clothing is a non-profit organization that helps provide these children with the clothing they so desperately need. Since our beginning in 2010 Caring for Kids has helped outfit hundreds of

children every year. We provide an immediate need in warm winter gear, school uniforms, everyday clothing, gym shoes, snow boots, socks, under garments and so much more. Goods and services donations are especially welcome as we hold several fundraisers each season and can always make use of raffle prizes and silent auction items. You can make a difference in a child's life; even the smallest donation can make a difference! Questions? Email me at lindbladandrea@gmail.com, or call me at 847-962-4807.

Actions for Peace and Justice

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

In the selection from St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians that we heard, Saint Paul tells us to stay awake and to put on the breastplate of faith and love. One way to stay awake is to be aware of how the people of the Episcopal Church act for Justice and Peace, and perhaps take a recommended action. Two excellent resources are the [Episcopal Peace Fellowship](#) and the [Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church](#).

Wednesday and Sunday Study

The Wednesday class on the Acts of the Apostles is now complete as will be the Sunday class this week.

We finished learning about the Epistles written by Paul then heard about what happened to each of the Apostles after



Acts, if anything is known. Some were beheaded, a more "humane" death than crucifixion or being thrown to the wild beasts. Some were crucified and some lived to a ripe old age. And the rest, we don't know what happened. The information about what happened to each of "the boys" came from a book entitled After Acts by Bryan Litfin. At the end of the book he says,

"So then, what happened to the apostles after Acts? The answer is simple. They died and went on to their reward - but they also left behind their successors, the men and women who received the torch of the Christian faith and passed it to the next generation.

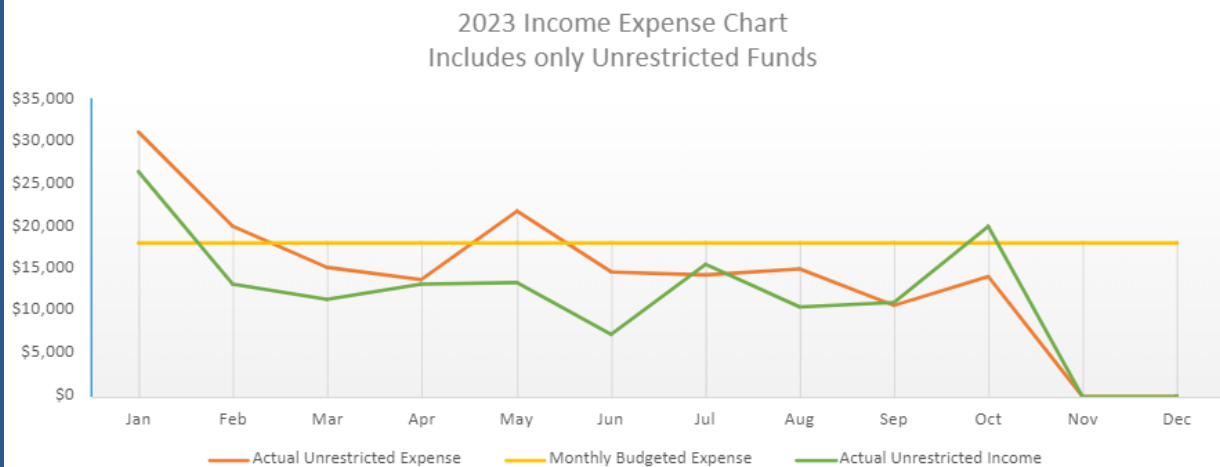
"This process continued through the centuries. Now the torch has come down to us. What will we do with it? Wisdom would suggest that we learn from our forebears how to lift high the sacred flame. It has been well kept by those who have finished the race and are watching us compete. May we too be marked by courage and perseverance as we run the race set before us...because the One who is waiting for us at the end is entirely worth it." What a wonderful way to end a class!!!

Due to the possible timing of our next class and Lent, we are having discussions on what we should do next and when we should do it. As soon as we figure out what we all want to do, we will let you know. We will also let you know what we will be doing as our four week Lenten study on Wednesday nights as well.

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jenni.

Pledge and Expenses Update

Please take some time and look over our pledge and expenses update.



Community Meals

Our next Community Meal at Christ Church is on December 10. We will need our full team on December 10 and a few people to come on Saturday at 11 am for meal prep and assembling bags. Please let Tom Crafton or Deacon Anne know if you will be able to come either Saturday or Sunday.

We are putting a Christmas card with each meal. Bring unsigned cards to church. We will sign cards during fellowship time on Sunday, November 26 and Sunday December 3. We will be including snacks and drinks with the meals, as we usually do. Please consider bringing something on the list, and sign up on the whiteboard on Sunday.



80-16oz bottles of water
80 juice boxes
80 apples
80 bags of chips (all the same please)
80 granola or protein bars

If anyone wants to purchase 80 holiday themed treats, please let Tom Crafton or Deacon Anne know before next Sunday. That would be wonderful.



Parish Life Corner

Last Sunday, besides being the greening of the church, was Christ the King Sunday. Bob Coates and Tom Crafton provided a wonderful coffee hour. Tom had been planning this coffee hour for several months and it was certainly a good one!!!!

Thank you so much to all of you who hosted coffee hour this year. Every one of them was delicious and

I really, really appreciate your volunteering.

We have all the coffee hours through the end of the year covered now. This week, Elizabeth Danos and Linda Gigiano will be hosting. I keep hearing their conversations about "sweet and salty" so I am guessing we will have some really good food this week too.

Jane Schaefer will be hosting on December 10 and the Cookie Walk on December 17 will be necessitating just coffee and juice. I will provide a small coffee hour on December 24 and December 31 and then we will be into 2024. No one has signed up for the beginning of the new year so please check your calendars and sign up. Remember, it will be just drinks if no one signs up to host.

If you have any questions about Parish Life, please see Miriam Berry or Andrea Lindblad.

Ornament Exchange

It's almost here!!!! What's that? An Annunciation Christmas event waited for each year...the ORNAMENT EXCHANGE. I actually had someone come up to me today to be sure we were going to have this event. (I, of course, said yes.)

Several people have told me they picked up their ornaments either weeks ago or months ago. This is a favorite event and if you have not joined in yet, you are truly missing out on a really fun time with terrific people.

In case you don't know what our ornament exchange is all about, it is similar to a White Elephant party. We all bring a beautifully wrapped ornament to the church along with drinks (wine is definitely appropriate) and appetizers or desserts. We have a short time to socialize and a break about halfway through the event for some more food and drinks. (The food, by the way, is REALLY good and there is normally lots of it!)

This year we will meet in the Narthex on Saturday, December 9 at 7 PM.

Please put this great event on your calendar and work on that creative shopping. Now the question is, will a Mer-Man grace us with his presence this year? The only way to know for sure is to come and see.

The white board is now out for you to sign up so we know what the seating arrangements need to be.

Please join us, you'll have a lot of fun.

If you have any questions please see Miriam Berry.



Lent Madness 2024

Well, believe it or not, the brackets for the 2024 Lent Madness have been set in stone!!!! I have already ordered the poster which will probably arrive in early January. Some of the recognizable names are: Thomas Cramner, Polycarp, Albert Schweitzer, Julian of Norwich. And for those who have been in the Acts of the Apostles class: Cornelius the Centurion and Thomas the Apostle. There are a bunch of one name people I have never heard of but I guess we'll all learn about them since that is what Lent Madness is all about.

So, stay tuned and let the games begin....soon, Ash Thursday to be exact.

Remember, to subscribe to the daily email, go to lentmadness.org and click on the subscribe button on the upper right corner.

Any questions, see Miriam Berry.



PADS Lunches and volunteers!

The PADS team would like to invite additional volunteers to help in making the lunches. If you are interested, please speak with Pam Meyers.

Our team provides lunches to PADS twice each month. We purchase the food and supplies to make those lunches a reality. If you would like to contribute to this ministry of PADS, please note on the check or mark on the envelope, **PADS**.



12@12 Service

We are reading Why Can't Church be more like an AA Meeting? by Stephen Haynes.

We are reading Why Can't Church be more like an AA Meeting? by Stephen Haynes.

We will meet on 12/5 with Chapter 6.



of Toliara

Everything has been quiet on the Malagasy front for the past couple weeks.

Sue Babbs is inundated with Zoom meetings right now but nothing I can report on at this time.

About a month ago, Rev. Gaston had an accident while on his motorbike. He hurt his leg. The Child Sponsorship committee of which there are about 10 of us, decided to pool our money and try to purchase another bike since Holy and Fiadanana of the education department use it as well. A wealthy couple who are part of the committee offered to make up the difference in order to get the new bike. The money has all been donated and they are just looking for a bike now. What a wonderful opportunity to help out. I almost ended that sentence with "wherever it is needed" then thought, "there isn't any place where money is NOT needed"!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has already taken bolts of fabric to wash and iron. Of the 14 bolts I left on the table, only 3 remain. I also brought in 10 bags of fabric and some of them have been taken as well. We are not in any great hurry to get these back, so please don't rush and miss any holiday times because you have ironing to do!!! All my washers and ironers are so wonderful, I, Sue Babbs and the Days for Girls people all thank you so very much.

If you have any questions about Madagascar in general or schooling or anything else about this ministry, please see Miriam Berry.

Digital Vergers

We are calling for a few more volunteers to help with the broadcasting of our Sunday worship. If you are interested in being one of our Digital Vergers, please talk with Mike Robison or Pastor Jenni.

Music Minister

We are still accepting names for a music minister and are asking for you to spread the news. If you know of potential candidates, please talk with Debbie Rakestraw.

Nursery Attendant

We are still accepting names for a second attendant for the nursery. If you know of candidates, please talk with Pastor Jenni.

Annunciation Book Club

The book list is set for the 20th year of the Annunciation Book Club. The club is open to all and if you would enjoy getting together over zoom or at a host's home, if there is sufficient interest, to discuss a book and enjoy some treats, we would love to have you join us. We meet most months on the first Monday of the month, moving to the second Monday in holiday months. A highlight of our year is the book exchange and potluck in December. The book list and schedule can be found on the communication wall at church, on the website or in the parish news. If you have any questions, please email [Deb](#).

[Click here to see the list of books](#)

Links to Zoom Worship for this Week

Sunday Worship | 9:00 am

[Join Sunday Worship](#)

Meeting ID: 820 4660 4628

Passcode: 848263

Monday Morning Prayer | 8:30am

[Join Morning Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 899 6756 6965

Passcode: 676070

Tuesday Morning Prayer | 8:30am

[Join Morning Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 837 2223 9298

Passcode: 848952

Wednesday Morning Prayer | 8:30am

[Join Morning Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 848 5595 0812

Passcode: 047321

Thursday Morning Prayer | 8:30am

[Join Morning Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 811 9177 8341

Passcode: 917299

Friday Morning Prayer | 8:30am

[Join Morning Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 820 1881 2369

Passcode: 138576

Visit our website



Parish News and Prayer Requests
Submissions due Thursday morning.
Email the Parish Administrator:
[Click here](#)

Website Updates
Email our webmaster, Mark:
[Click here](#)

Donate



Food Tidings Meal Ministry
Surgery? New birth? If you need a little help with supper, contact Samantha.
[Food Tidings](#)

During the week:
Pastoral emergencies: 847-336-3730
The Church office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:30am to 2:30pm.

Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church | 5725 Stearns School Road, Gurnee, IL 60031

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