

## As we approach Easter, here are some upcoming events of interest

### **Ash Wednesday Service - February 26<sup>th</sup>**

The beginning of Lent starts with an Ash Wednesday service celebrated at St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 12:15 pm

### **Membership Classes**

Are you interested in finding out more about *Grace* and what we believe, or in becoming a member? Do your kids want to learn more about their faith? If so, here are some opportunities:

#### **All About Grace Class (March 14<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup>)**

For adults - on Saturdays from 8:30 - 10am

#### **Professing Your Faith Class (March 14<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>)**

For Elementary kids (Gr. 4-5) on Saturdays from 10:30 - 12pm

For Youth (Gr. 6-12) on Saturdays from 10:30 - 12pm

Our kids/youth will be professing their faith on Palm Sunday. They are welcome to take part in communion for the first time on Good Friday.

New members and infant baptisms will take place on Easter Sunday. Contact Pastor Daniel at [daniel.yoon@wearegracesac.org](mailto:daniel.yoon@wearegracesac.org) for more info.

### **Infant Baptism Class - March 28<sup>th</sup>**

If you would like to have your infant baptized on Palm Sunday, come to an Infant Baptism class on Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10am. Contact Pastor Daniel for more info.

### **Grace Sac Make-over - April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Come join us as we *serve* alongside one another to clean-up our church and get ready for Easter Sunday, from 9-12pm. Lunch will be provided.

### **Passion Week Services**

Throughout the week leading up to Easter, Christians around the world will worship together anticipating Christ's resurrection. *Grace* will celebrate the following services:

#### **Good Friday Service (April 10<sup>th</sup>)**

7pm - a Table and Tenebrae service

#### **Easter Sunday (April 12<sup>th</sup>)**

10:30am - invite your friends and family

#### **Easter Picnic (April 12<sup>th</sup>)**

12pm - *Grace* will host our annual Easter Picnic on the corner on Easter Sunday. There will be an egg hunt, games, BBQ, potluck, and lots of fun. Contact Kris Glass ([kris.glass@wearegracesac.org](mailto:kris.glass@wearegracesac.org)) to help in planning.

Original Lent artwork provided by:

Laurie Freeman Young



### **What is Lent?**

How do we get ready to celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday—two of the most important days of the Christian calendar? Over the years the church developed a tradition called Lent. Lent can be traced back to the 2nd century. During this season, new Christians would fast and study in preparation to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Eventually, entire congregations practiced Lent as a sign of Christian discipleship. It was a season of special emphasis on disciplines like living *simply*, *prayer*, *fasting*, *giving* to the poor and *doing* acts of service.

Christians counted forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays), like Christ's forty-day fast in the desert (Luke 4), to determine the time frame of the Lenten journey.

Lent is a forty-day journey on which we can stop, look, and listen to what God is doing. It's a journey for which we should ask ourselves "What things do I need to leave behind so I can travel closer to Jesus? What things should I take with me?" On that journey, we stop to see what God wants us to do. We stop to see what saying "I'm sorry" looks like. We stop to see what it means to suffer for Jesus' sake and to see what the Bible says about Jesus' suffering. Finally, we walk, step by painful step, with Jesus on the road to the cross during passion week. It's a hard road, but it shines with glory on Easter morning when we celebrate Christ's resurrection!

### **Prayer Calendar**

You'll find a prayer calendar on the following pages of topics in the following areas: *GraceKids*, *Youth*, *Mexico Missions*, our community, our Mercy & Care, our pastors/staff, session and diaconate. Our hope is that this season would be both an "emptying" and "filling" time of preparation as you journey towards Easter.



## Lent 2020: Legacy Campaign

Over the next five Sundays, our sermon series will anticipate Christ's passion at Easter by examining the lives of Jesus' closest followers and the LEGACY He left with His disciples. We will also explore ways Christians in history have prepared for Easter by learning Lenten practices.

As part of our Lenten journey at Grace Sacramento, we will hold a special season of **giving** in concert with the practices of Lent. This effort to give above and beyond our regular Sunday offering coincides with our Lent 2020 teaching theme: LEGACY. Through it, we hope to build and furnish a house for a family in Ensenada, Mexico and provide scholarships for Grace Sacramento folks to travel to Mexico this summer to help build it.

## Additional Resources

Each Sunday during Lent, we will offer suggestions of ways that you and your family might experiment with the practices of Lent and help with our LEGACY giving season at the same time.

Here are a few additional resources you might find useful for your own Lenten journey and for celebrating Lent together as a family. Look for the following resources on the internet, or you can find their links on our website.

[Jesus is Tempted \(You Tube Video\)](#)

[To Ash or Not to Ash \(article by Dr. Tim LeCroy\)](#)

[What is the Deal with Lent? \(article by Fr. Aaron Damiani\)](#)

[Illustrations and Coloring Pages for Lent 2019 \(website\)](#)

[How to explain Ash Wednesday to Children \(blog by Robin Floch\)](#)

[Keeping a Holy Lent \(book by Craig Higgins - available on Amazon\)](#)

[Lent Resource Guide \(website for Calvin Institute of Christian Worship\)](#)

[Holy Week Resource Guide \(website for Calvin Institute of Christian Worship\)](#)

[History of Lenten Fasting \(website by Dr. Tim LeCroy\)](#)

[Liturgy Letter \(website by Phil Majorins\)](#)



## PRAYER

Prayer may generally be described as that activity in which we are drawn closer to God in contemplation and communication. Prayer is our half of a conversation with God. That means that prayer is not only speaking, but listening as well. Jesus prayed (Mark 1:35), Jesus instructed his disciples to pray, Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Luke 11) and the scriptures say that the church is built on the prayers of God's people (Acts 2:42).

### **February 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> (Start Using our Lent Prayer Calendar)**

Take home a LEGACY 2020 CAMPAIGN prayer calendar and join Grace Sacramento in daily prayer for our church, our community, and our world and the Legacy season of giving this Lent.

## FASTING

Fasting was practiced in the Old Testament and was recommended by Jesus both in example and teaching (Luke 4:2, Matt.6:16-18, Mark 2:20). It is a practice that is designed to emphasize dependence on God and weaken attraction to things that cannot sustain us. Fasting is going without food or certain foods for designated periods during Lent. Abstinence from some activity (such as television, movies, entertainment, etc.) for designated time throughout the season is another way to observe the Lenten fast. Both are designed to give more attention and time to prayer and dependence on God.

### **March 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> (Fast)**

Take the 7 day fasting challenge. Choose a regular item or activity to abstain from for one week (or for the remainder of Lent). Consider an item or activity that regularly costs you money and donate those funds to LEGACY. Example: Coffee (\$3.50/day x 7 days = \$24.50 to donate to Mexico/Grace)

## SERVICE

The intention of this part of the Lenten discipline is to connect our faith in God's love for us with actions that are loving of others in the world. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Love is why Christ came. Love is why Christ died. Love is why God raised him from the dead. Love is the whole purpose and mission of the Church and of every Christian member: to show God's love in the world.

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> (Serve)**

Sign-up to go on our Mexico mission trip / commit to help install flooring and other improvements at our GraceKids work day.

## SIMPLICITY

Simplicity is a spiritual discipline that reorients our life by deliberately organizing it for a purpose. It is spiritual because simplicity deals intimately with the beliefs and views that lend shape and order to our lives. Our priorities show us the focus of our lives, and the way spend our time, our energy, and money along with the clutter of our homes becomes a reflection of our inner beliefs and intentionality. Simplifying is something we will have to work at and practice, because we have already created routines of business and convenience (Matt 6:21). Adhering our life to a focused center of Jesus reduces fracturedness, hurriedness and franticness.

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> (Simplify)**

Take the simplicity challenge: Choose items to purge from your home and services or memberships (Hulu, Netflix, Carwash, etc) to cancel. Sell items on craigslist or have a garage sale - donate proceeds from sales and savings from to Mexico/Grace.

## GIVING

Jesus presented giving to the needy as a necessary part of Christian life: "...when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing (Mt 6:2-3)." He does not say if you give alms, but when. Like fasting, prayer, and service, giving to those in need is part of following Christ.

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> - April 12<sup>th</sup> (Give)**

Take a Legacy label, place it on a tin can and fill it with your change throughout this Lenten season. Return your change along with an extra gift of your conviction to donate to Mexico/Grace.



# Prayer Calendar

## **April 1** (Wednesday)

*Legacy Campaign:* For this season of giving. For God to provide resources to build a house in Mexico and minister to a family in Ensenada. Pray that God will match us with the right family.

## **April 2** (Thursday)

*Men's Ministry:* As we prayerfully and thoughtfully create spaces for men to connect with one another and with God to talk to real needs and issues men face. For God to provide leaders who have a heart for ministry to men.

## **April 3** (Friday)

*Worship Team:* For Mia, as she prepares to lead three worship services this week: Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. Pray for our musicians, singers and A/V teams.

## **April 4** (Saturday)

*Pastor Daniel:* As he prepares to preach on the disciple named Judas from John 12:1-16. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for Daniel's monthly work in gathering and networking with pastors in the city of Sacramento.

## Week 7 (Holy Week)

### **April 5** (Palm Sunday)

*Every Church:* And every pastor in our city preparing for passion week and Easter. Pray that the message of the resurrection would be proclaimed with power across our city.

### **April 6** (Monday)

*Jesus Cleanses the Temple:* Pray that Grace Sacramento will be a worshipping church and one that seeks to serve those who find their way through our doors.

### **April 7** (Tuesday)

*Jesus Confronts the Religious Leaders:* Pray for those whom God has called to lead Grace Sacramento. Pray that our leaders would lead with humility, wisdom and discernment.

### **April 8** (Wednesday)

*Jesus Anointed:* A woman breaks an alabaster jar and begins to wash the feet of Jesus with her hair. Jesus praises her repentance and devotion and shows her forgiveness. Pray that in our repentance, we would remember our first love.

### **April 9** (Maundy Thursday)

*The Last Supper:* Pray for the ways we love each other at Grace. Pray that we would follow Christ's example of serving each other and washing each other's feet.

### **April 10** (Friday)

*Good Friday:* Spend time considering the ways we have sinned against Jesus. Pray for forgiveness. Pray for a deep anticipation and need for resurrection power in your life.

### **April 11** (Saturday)

*Holy Saturday:* For those who will worship for the first time or the first time in a long time tomorrow at Easter. Pray for Brad as he prepares to preach that the gospel would be clearly presented. Pray for relational connections at Grace.



# Prayer Calendar

## Week 1

### **February 26** (Wednesday)

*Ash Wednesday:* As we begin our 40-day journey through Lent, that this season of "filling" and "emptying" will lead us closer to Christ.

### **February 27** (Thursday)

*GraceKids:* Pray for the many infants, toddlers and elementary students who fill our space. Pray that every child would hear the gospel in a way that they can understand every Sunday.

### **February 28** (Friday)

*Mexico:* For those considering going to Mexico this summer with our Family Mission team. Pray that God will provide the needed people to achieve our goal of building a house and continuing our relationship with the ministry there.

### **February 29** (Saturday)

*Pastor Brad:* As he prepares to preach on the disciple named James from Mark 10:35-45. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for his family: Olivia, Flannery, Asher and Story.

## Week 2

### **March 1** (Sunday)

*Grace Sacramento:* That we would be a church that seeks to put Christ on display in Sacramento and in the neighboring communities.

### **March 2** (Monday)

*The Homeless:* Those who live in our neighborhood and often seek shelter under our awnings. Pray for health and permanent solutions to various reasons for their homelessness. Pray for Steve, our janitor - for warmth and safety on the streets.

### **March 3** (Tuesday)

*The Diaconate:* For our Mercy and Care team. That they would be good stewards of the resources we have as we use them to care well for the people and needs of Grace Sacramento.

### **March 4** (Wednesday)

*Legacy Campaign:* For this season of giving. For God to provide resources to build a house in Mexico and minister to a family in Ensenada. Pray that God will match us with the right family.

### **March 5** (Thursday)

*Youth:* For our growing youth ministry. That they would grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus to face the challenges of temptation and doubt.

### **March 6** (Friday)

*Ladies of Grace:* Pray for the gathering of women at Grace tomorrow as they seek to deepen in relationship with God and with each other. Pray for a fruitful time of fellowship.

### **March 7** (Saturday)

*Pastor Daniel:* As he prepares to preach on the disciple named Bartholomew from John 1:43-51. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for his family: Karen, Joshua, Caleb and Abigail.

## Week 3

### **March 8** (Sunday)

*St. Paul's Lutheran* (our landlords): For their flourishing and witness in Tahoe Park and that we would care well for the St. Paul's facility we have been blessed with.

A banner image for the Prayer Calendar. It features a group of stylized, colorful figures (pink, yellow, white, cyan) holding hands in a circle against a purple, starry background. The text "Prayer Calendar" is overlaid in a white, serif font.

# Prayer Calendar

**March 9** (Monday)

*Mexico:* For the pastors in Mexico as they prayerfully consider families who have applied to receive the home we will build and for continued ministry and care for them.

**March 10** (Tuesday)

*The Session:* For our elders and elder families as they shepherd the flock at *Grace Sacramento*. Pray for their oversight and leadership.

**March 11** (Wednesday)

*GraceKids Volunteers:* For our volunteer GraceKids teachers: Annette, Carol, Chris, Daly, and Karen. For Allison and Cristiane as they lead our toddler ministry/volunteers. For Olivia as she coordinates care for our growing nursery ministry. Pray for boldness, gentleness and wisdom for our teachers as they open the Bible with kids.

**March 12** (Thursday)

*Kris Glass:* For our Church Administrator. Pray for ministries that are empowered by the details she takes care of. Pray for her family: Ken, Brady, Bryan and Shelby.

**March 13** (Friday)

*Profession of Faith:* Pray for our young people, (upper elementary and youth) some who will profess their faith on Palm Sunday. Pray for the classes held over the next three Saturdays where pastors will meet with kids/students.

**March 14** (Saturday)

*Pastor Brad:* As he prepares to preach on the disciple named Matthew from Matthew 9:9-13. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for Brad's leadership in our Presbytery in planting new churches.

## Week 4

**March 15** (Sunday)

*Partner Churches:* For the neighboring churches in our denomination: Valley Springs and Soaring Oaks. For their growth and thriving in the neighborhoods in which they minister.

**March 16** (Monday)

*World Relief:* For their work in resettling refugees in Sacramento. For their care and support of families moving to unfamiliar places. For their partnership with churches who will assist in this.

**March 17** (Tuesday)

*Membership:* For those considering joining the church at *Grace Sacramento*. For opportunities for accountability and affirmation in their walk with God. Pray for the classes taking place in March.

**March 18** (Wednesday)

*Youth Leaders:* For Mia Bordisso and our youth leaders: Chris, Christine and Julie. As they seek to model Christ to our youth through our events/outings and personal relationships.

**March 19** (Thursday)

*Legacy Campaign:* For this season of giving. For God to continue to provide resources to build a house in Mexico and minister to a family in Ensenada. Pray that God will bless the family that we will be building a house for.

**March 20** (Friday)

*Mia Bordisso:* For our worship and arts leader. As she coordinates teams, music and liturgy in our services. Pray for her new role in leading our youth. Pray for her, for her mom, Carol and her sister Santi.

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# Prayer Calendar

**March 21** (Saturday)

*Pastor Daniel:* As he prepares to preach on Jesus' followers Mary and Martha from Luke 10 and John 11. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for Daniel's leadership in multi-ethnic gatherings for clergy in the Sacramento area.

## Week 5

**March 22** (Sunday)

*Gospel-preaching Churches:* For churches in the downtown core that minister to people in the city. Pray as they seek to minister in these diverse ethnic, social-economic and culture making places. Pray for these missional churches that seek to live out the gospel in their context.

**March 23** (Monday)

*The Reiter's:* For our missionary family in Brookton, Western Australia. For new relationships with new neighbors, as well as, the Australian church community. For baby girl Cora.

**March 24** (Tuesday)

*CRU Sac Metro:* For the para-church collegiate ministry across five campuses in Sacramento (and the hope for 13 campuses) as they seek to reach every student across every campus through gospel communities. For the Clay's and the Mockford's as they serve on various college campuses with CRU in Sacramento.

**March 25** (Wednesday)

*Mexico:* For Steven Wagner-Davis as he leads our Mexico Mission Team. Pray for wisdom in leadership while he is on-site in Mexico making decisions for the team.

**March 26** (Thursday)

*Intergenerational Ministry:* For singles, for young people, for married couples, for families, for widows, the elderly. Pray that folks would find their place in the greater family of the church at *Grace Sacramento*.

**March 27** (Friday)

*Grace Groups:* For our smaller communities of faith at *Grace Sacramento* who gather regularly to study the Word, deepen in relationships and find ways to utilize their gifts and serve the body.

**March 28** (Saturday)

*Pastor Brad:* As he prepares to preach on the disciple named Thomas from John 20:24-31. Pray for our walk with God and continued journey in discipleship. Pray for Brad's doctoral studies that it would result in fruitful ministry.

## Week 6

**March 29** (Sunday)

*Church Planters and Plants:* Pray for pastors and church plants to find favor in their communities. Pray for success in locating worship spaces, funding for this kingdom work and for strong marriages and families.

**March 30** (Monday)

*Mercy & Care:* For God to provide new leaders in our mercy and care ministry. Pray for people who want to train and prepare to join our Diaconate. Pray for our mercy ministry training through this Lenten season.

**March 31** (Tuesday)

*Missions Task Force:* For God to provide new leaders for this new ministry to help with outreach training and begin the task of developing a missions philosophy that honors our mission and helps us focus on missions and outreach at home and around the world.