

# The Fellowship Times



**Palm Sunday– 10:00 AM Service time (We will meet in Parish House to pick up palms)**

**Maundy Thursday & Foot Washing– 6:00 PM**

**Good Friday & Stations of the Cross– 6:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday– 10:00 AM Service time**

## Book club & Lenten soup suppers

Book club and Lenten Soup Suppers continue through April 1 from 6 -7 PM. Our study book will be "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis, so please purchase your copy ahead of time. We'll be covering 2 chapters each week for 7 weeks. Please also bring a pen and notebook.

**Sunday Services are at 10:00 AM with Coffee Hour in the Parish House directly after.**

Church Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday: 9:30 AM– 2PM

Closed on Friday

Follow us on our Website, Facebook and Instagram! Watch us on You Tube!



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### Special points of interest

- **Choir Practice after church service– contact Karen Gomer for more information**
- **Grief Support Group meets every other Tuesday at 10-11AM in the Church Office conference room . Contact the Church Office or Helene Daigneault for more Information.**

## A Note From Fr. Rick



Our identity is Relational ...it is already Connected to our Heavenly Father, our Savior and our Holy Spirit...all are leading us into deeper communion and awareness of their Love for us and our Destiny to grow into their Likeness and Being.

So the Cross is Jesus dying for you....but also dying in your place. He brought

### **Holy Week is the Door to Being "in Christ"**

The Gospel that Jesus shared is that His Kingdom is invading the Darkness of Sin and Death in all of it's ravages upon people and their lives. It is a Savior who is bring Healing to broken hearts, broken minds and broken lives. Guess what... we are all broken in various places and different ways. Our hearts are made to be alive and secure in Love...in a awareness of being Loved by a Heavenly Father, the Son who shares His very own Life with us, and the Spirit that shares Heaven to our needy souls.

So really, deeply, our Holy Week of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Resurrection Sunday is introducing us in the Divine Family and us as "a new creation in Christ" sons and daughters! That new Identity and Creation exists already in you...and is waiting for you to discover and believe.

the End of Adam by being the Last Adam. So Jesus associated Himself with you as an Adam or Eve and brought your particular Adam-Identity to an end! The Resurrection of Jesus includes you and me! His Resurrection from the dominion of Sin and Death is also shared with us as our own resurrection as well! Our faith and devotion is now our way of receiving and entering into all that Jesus is For us and also In us.



## March Bunko Night Fun

We had a good group show up to play Bunko for our March game night. Bunko is great fun and just a little bit of friendly competition might be involved. Everyone brought snacks to share and when I say snacks, I mean some great food. Remember, we have Bunko Night on the first Saturday of every month. Come join us for a great night of fun and fellowship. Below are some picture from our most recent Bunko Night. Cheryl had most Buncos, Dot had most wins and Pam had most loses.



## Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is a ministry that is very near and dear to our heart. We have a great group of volunteers who come together to package food on Wednesday and give it out to people in the Polk County community every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. We serve approximately 400 families a month.





## April

The following people are celebrating either a birthday or anniversary this month. If you see them, please remember to tell them to have a great day.

Fr. Rick and Karen Gomer– Anniversary, April 13th

Chrissy Quinn– Birthday, April 19th

Lois Hamann– Birthday, April 26th

## Auburndale Easter Egg Hunt

The City of Auburndale hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on March 22nd, and we were there to help out. We had a great group of people who helped to set up our tent, hand out candy, bubbles and tattoos to the kids and visit with everyone who stopped by. A big thank you to all who were able to come and help out. We had a great time seeing the kids and taking pictures with the Easter Bunny!

Below are a few of the pictures that we took.



## Upcoming Events

**March 29– Palm Sunday service (We will meet in the Parish House to receive our palms and process into church from there.)**

**April 1, 6:00– 7:00 PM– Book Study and Lent Soup Suppers begin. We will be doing a study on the C.S. Lewis book, “The Great Divorce”.**

**April 2– Maundy Thursday and Foot Washing– 6:00 PM**

**April 3– Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross– 10:00 AM**

**April 5– Easter Sunday**

**April 11- Game Night– come join in the fun!!**

## Recipe of the Month

### **Breakfast Casserole Recipe provided by Pam Merashoff**

This is a super easy recipe that always turns out great. It is our Christmas morning breakfast, but also great for any occasion. Assemble the night before and bake in the morning.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 5 oz. package of croutons
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound breakfast sausage, cooked and crumbled

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Place the croutons in the bottom of a greased 9-in. x 13-in. baking dish. Top with cooked sausage and cheese.
- In a separate large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper together; pour over croutons and sausage in baking pan.

Cover and refrigerate overnight.

- Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees F for 50-55 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Top will be lightly browned. Let cool 10 minutes before serving.

## News from the Vestry Senior Warden

The vestry met on Sunday, March 1 after the service. We began in prayer, followed by roll call.

Fr. Rick and Mike were there, as well as all Vestry members but Donna.

**Financial report and Operational Matters:** We looked at our financial reports first, presented by Mike. The 2026 budget is still under revision. We are expecting one more contribution from Encourage at the end of this quarter, but options were discussed regarding our remaining money in keeping the church going with or without a priest. This was not an enjoyable conversation. We also discussed those of us at the church who must complete components of the Safe Church, Safe Communities online curriculum. This program is for the protection of vulnerable members of our community, and the required modules vary depending upon the role the person serves. It also is essential for Insurance purposes. We also talked about the canons regarding financial procedures from the Diocese of Central Florida (hereafter referred to as the DCF) for operational guidance, which the Finance Committee will be reviewing and offering recommendations. In addition, Mike presented the Vestry with the 2025 Parochial Report, which is a document that must be submitted annually to the DCF to show them our parish's statistics, including Average Sunday Attendance (hereafter referred to as ASA), total contributions for the year and number of baptisms, weddings and funerals.

**Old Business:** We are still trying to get together paperwork to complete grants for Publix and City of Auburndale Historic Status. We have a couple of people working on this, but assistance is welcome. There was an update to the possibility of us being able to lease our parking area on the east side of the church to the city. It turns out the previously developed agreement has no financial benefit, so that is a dead end. A realtor is checking on the possibility of the rental of the Hope Building as a possibility for raising funds.

**New Business:** Karen Gomer was selected to be our Volunteer of the Month. Much of our new business was really about updates on many of the old business matters, but we talked a bit about our upcoming meeting with Canon Dan, and we will hold an additional meeting on Sunday, March 8 to go over things we wish to ask him.

**Takeaways:** It is true that we have people who work in the office, take visitors and phone calls, keep the books and pay bills for the church Food Pantry, fix broken things and deal with many other issues, but the job is so big that assistance is always handy if you have time. A big thank you to Mike and Andrea and volunteers like Donna who take on multiple tasks that not only keep the church running but improve the system.

## Vestry Members, Staff and Ministry Leaders

### Vestry Members

Liz Manning- Senior Warden & Finance

Pat Masters- Junior Warden

Donna McWhorter– Secretary & Communications

Christy Gardner– Worship

Chrissy Quinn– Adult Education

### Office Staff

Mike Reilly– Parish Administrator

Andrea Concha– Receptionist

### Ministry Leaders

Altar Guild– Pam Merashoff

Choir– Karen Gomer

Food Pantry– Bill Silvey/Danny Poveda/Taquira Studimire

### Fellowship

Coffee Hour– Lois Hamann/Pam Merashoff