

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to Christ Church Alexandria!

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith. If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can be scanned via QR code in your bulletin, or at the bottom of this page. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. An infant caring room is also available in the Parish Hall, up the stairs to the right of the main entrance, for children five and under. We are glad you're here!

TODAY – ADVENT III

Newcomer Welcome | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Join us in the Meade Room for a cup of coffee and the opportunity to talk with the rector and members of the vestry and staff.

Comfort Ye: An Advent Service for a Difficult Time | 5:00 p.m.

For many, this is a season of mixed emotions, including sorrow and grief. In this service, we will acknowledge our sadness and offer prayers for loss then follow by sharing the Eucharist together as a sign of our eternal hope.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit www.historicchristchurch.org/events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library
9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room
9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Fowler House
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m. Comfort Ye

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
(www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting – Meade Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel
6:30 p.m. Advent Candlelight Prayers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Revelation Study – Meade Room
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
9:00 a.m. Lazarus Food Pantry – Meade Room
7:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith – Library
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir – Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

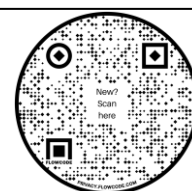
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

AA • Al-Anon

Various groups meet regularly
at Christ Church during the week.
Please check our online calendar for specifics.
(www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events)



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883
www.HistoricChristChurch.org



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to ParishLife@ccalex.org.

Our 2026 Thank You Gift

Make a pledge and receive an only-at-Christ-Church thank you! Our 2026 gift is a bookmark that features shelves of books only found here. You'll see titles like "*How to be a Cheerful Giver*," "*It's Time for Children's Chapel*," and "*I Ain't Afraid of No Ghosts: A Churchyard Tour*". Make a digital gift and choose "2026 Pledge" or complete a card in your pew. Recurring or one-time gifts are both welcome.

Newcomer Gathering | Today | 9:00 a.m.

If you are new to Christ Church in the last year, please join us in the Meade Room for a cup of coffee and the opportunity to talk with the rector and members of the vestry and staff. We look forward to getting to know you better and answering any questions you have about life in this community of faith.

Christ Church Young Adults Trivia | December 15

Astro in Shirlington Village, 4001 Campbell Ave
On the third Monday of every month, Christ Church Young Adults gather for Trivia at the Astro in Shirlington. We'll aim to be there between 6 and 6:30 p.m. for a 7:00 p.m. start time but join us when you can! For more information contact Robbie at rlaughton@ccalex.org.

Christmas Special Gifts

Remember loved ones this Christmas with a special gift. Mail in the envelope included with your preprinted offering envelopes, submit the information online at www.historicchristchurch.org/donate, or send a check with "Christmas Special Gifts" in the memo line to Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria VA 22314. Please include a note with the name of your loved one and if your gift is to honor or remember them. Gifts must be submitted by December 16 to be included in the Christmas service.

Help Spread Holiday Cheer – Deliver a Poinsettia!

Help share the joy of Christmas by delivering a poinsettia to a fellow parishioner who is homebound and unable to attend services. Flowers will be ready to pick up after the morning services on December 21.

Deck the Halls of Christ Church | December 21

On December 21, after the 10:00 a.m. service, we need your help decorating the church! We will be hanging wreaths and getting the church all ready for Christmas. If you can help, please let Michelle Baize know at mbaize@ccalex.org.

Christmas Pageant & Yuletide Feast with Cookie Exchange December 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Our annual Christmas Pageant is almost here! Join the children of Christ Church at 5:00 p.m. to hear the story of Jesus' birth as told by our Sunday Schoolers. The Yuletide Feast and Cookie Swap will follow in the Auditorium. Bring a batch of your favorite Christmas treat to share! Pageant details for parents are in December Children's News.

Help with the Pageant and Feast | December 21

We need your help making the Pageant and Feast a joyful and festive occasion! Volunteers are most needed for constructing and tearing down the set, decorating the Auditorium, and serving food and cleaning up during the Feast. Email Ariel (arudy@ccalex.org) to connect with leadership these tasks.

Calling All Bakers!

Do you have a new cookie recipe you want to try out? Do you find yourself doubling brownie recipes for no good reason? Lend your baking talents to the Yuletide Feast and Cookie Swap for us all to enjoy after the Pageant! Even if you don't plan to attend the Pageant or Feast, you can drop cookies off in the Auditorium on December 21 and share the bounty of your culinary gifts.

Monday Concert Series | March 9 | 12:15 p.m.

Second Monday of the Month | March through May
The series resumes in March with 4-Hand Piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Barber; Sean Burns and Jason Abel. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here: www.historicchristchurch.org/music

FAITH FORMATION

For information, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons at rector@ccalex.org or 703.549.1450

Comfort Ye: An Advent Service for a Difficult Time Today | 5:00 p.m.

For many, this is a season of mixed emotions, including sorrow and grief. In this service, we will acknowledge our sadness and offer prayers for loss then follow by sharing the Eucharist together as a sign of our eternal hope.

Advent Prayers by Candlelight

December 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Chapel
Join Noelle and Ariel in the chapel for a calming service to mark the last week of the Advent season of prayerful expectation before the joyful exuberance of Christmas. Our service will combine times of prayer and times of silence to still our hearts and center our minds, preparing us for the coming of Christ.

Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library

Ever wonder why that piece of scripture is in the Bible or what it means? Show up to the sermon and wish you knew more? This Bible study is for you! We'll read the lessons appointed for the day and conduct a brief study.

LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday of the month | Library
LGBTQ+ parishioners gather every first and third Thursday for conversation about the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their coming out journeys. Through prayerful study of scripture in a safe, open, and loving space, we will

seek a deeper understanding of our faith, our lived experiences, and our relationship with Jesus. For more information, please contact Terry Brown at terrymbrown1@me.com.

Lent 2026

Yes, you read that correctly. We are inviting you to contribute to our annual Christ Church compilation of daily meditations for Lent. It may seem premature to focus on Lent in Advent, much less the Christmas and Epiphany seasons; however, because Lent begins quite early in 2026, we will compile all contributions by January 16th. Your thoughts can be shared in narrative or poetic style (no more than 300 words) and/or by an illustration. We strongly believe that these contributions will deepen our connection with God and our sense of community in these challenging times. Thank you in advance for considering our call. Email questions and submissions to mgray@ccalex.org. Thank you from the Lenten Meditation Collectors, Melanie Gray, Tom Hahn, Rawles Jones, Ariel Rudy, Sharon Schambra, and Tom Suydam

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at rlaughton@ccalex.org

Fellowship for Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Raising tiny Christians is no easy feat! One Sock On is a space for parents to come together and share the triumphs and trials of parenthood in a loving, relaxed environment while little ones get to know church friends. One Sock On meets during Sunday School (9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) in Room 103 in the Fowler House. Come whenever you can, for as long as you like. Email Jaclyn Hagner (jackie.hagner@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to be added to the email list.

OUTREACH & MISSION

For information, contact Melanie Gray at mgray@ccalex.org or 703.778.4937

DECEMBER: CANNED FRUIT, JELLY, AND RICE

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with the staples we're running low on: canned fruits (packed in juice, or reduced sugar preferred), jelly and rice (12oz or 16oz bags, white and brown). You can leave items in the white wooden donations box in the Parish Hall or order online (<https://amzn.to/40g4CaF>) and ship to Christ Church ATTN: Outreach at 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Reusable Grocery Bags Needed

Our community partner, ALIVE!, regularly runs out of bags for clients to transport food from the foodbank to their homes. Many of us have amassed a pile of these bags that are now cluttering up our homes because they are "too nice to throw out!" Please consider donating them by simply putting

them into the white donation box outside the church and we will take them to the locations where they can be of use. No throw-away plastic or paper bags at this time, please.

Spanish Translators needed at Lazarus Food Pantry and Lazarus Financial Ministry

Lazarus Food Pantry needs translators Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. until roughly 10:30 a.m. We need translators to help with the Lazarus Financial Ministry on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. until roughly 5:00 p.m. Please reach out to Liz Denson for more details ldenson@historicchristchurch.org.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- ❖ **2:00 p.m. | A Simple Service for Christmas Eve**
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Christmas hymns and homily. We will sing selected verses of our favorite Christmas hymns and share the Bread of Life together. This service will begin and end in daylight for those who prefer to walk or drive in the daytime.
- ❖ **4:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Eucharist**
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with familiar Christmas hymns and a short sermon. This service is particularly appropriate for children and families.
- ❖ **6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. | The Feast of the Nativity**
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with the Christ Church Choir and sermon. Livestream available at 6:00 p.m. Along with the Holy Eucharist, hymns, and a Christmas sermon, these two services will feature the Christ Church Choir, and Director of Music Jason Abel. Join friends and strangers alike as we welcome the infant Christ into our hearts this most holy night.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

- ❖ 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 28 – (note schedule change)

- ❖ 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

BLESSINGS ON...

- The volunteers who shopped, cooked, and served dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter, Kathy Bowdring, Elizabeth Mendel, Lisa Coakley, Micaela Shaugnessy, Anne McMurray, Carol and Joe Shull and Barabra Boehm.
- The volunteers who made and served lunches at Meade Memorial, Emily Bryan, Amy Bacon, Cindi Bartol, Susan Bray, Anne Land, Mary Hobbie, Karen Hill, Emily Soapes, Claudia Ellet, Ruth Arnold, Maude Williams, Mary Dixon and Jack Hutcheson, and Claire Chow.

GIFT SHOP



Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday to Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 703.836.5258

All proceeds benefit outreach in the Alexandria community and globally.

The holiday entertaining season is upon us! Consider a hostess gift from the Gift Shop! We have our special honey, jams, jellies, peanuts and cashews. We have festive napkins and dishtowels. We have ornaments for the tree and foam soap, lotion and lip balm for lips and chapped hands. As always, we have lovely cards to give or send. Stop by the Gift Shop and choose a gift for someone special.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY, CLERGY, AND STAFF

Vestry

Steve Reed, '26, Sr. Warden
Kathleen Hickman '27, Jr Warden
Cornelia Horner '26
Ken Knapp '26
Jay Purcell Manchester '26
Nanette Lawson '27
Wendy Montes de Oca '27
Christopher Thompson '27
Jane Baird '28, Paula Dubberly '28
Jessica Hughes '28, Steve Slaton '28

David Rees, *Treasurer*

Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons
Rector

The Rev. Robbie Laughton
Associate Rector

The Rev. Beth Bingham
Associate Rector

The Rev. Abbott Bailey
Priest Associate

Music

M. Jason Abel
Director of Music

Parish Office

Michelle Baize
Meredith Bracco
Liz Denson, Melanie Gray
Ariel Rudy, Lia Sanchez
Julie Simonton

Facilities

Pouyan Meghdadian
Glen Curry Kevin Lawyer