



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Episcopal/Anglican Alexandria, Virginia



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00 a.m.

Page numbers refer to [The Book of Common Prayer](#) (the small red book with a cross).

Today, the first Sunday in Lent, we begin the liturgy with The Great Litany. Dating to 1544, the Litany was the first liturgical rite translated into the English language, and has become a global tradition of the Anglican Church. The Nicene Creed, the Prayers of the People, and the Confession are omitted today, as they are covered by the various petitions of the Litany.

THE GREAT LITANY

found in The Book of Common Prayer

p. 148

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

p. 323

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People: ***His mercy endureth for ever.***

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Kyrie eleison

p. 324

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
People: ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 32 *Beati quorum*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Epistle: Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned -- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Response: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Announcements

Want to give electronically? While the alms basin is being passed, you can also make an offering online using your bank account, debit, or credit card: just scan the code at right.

Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Clergy: All things come of thee, O Lord; *and of thine own, have we given thee.* p. 343

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II p. 340

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

The Celebrant proceeds:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,
with thanksgiving.

We will receive at a standing station.

Please let an usher know if you would like to have Communion brought to you.

Post Communion Prayer

p. 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Clergy: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

<i>Reader/Intercessor:</i>	Brian Ply
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Diana Walker
<i>Usher:</i>	Dodd Sims
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Adrienne Goins
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

February 22, 2026

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST we welcome you
to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill!**

Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Immanuel was founded by the Virginia Theological Seminary. We are one parish that worships in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road) on the seminary grounds. Immanuel Chapel offers a fully-staffed nursery for our infant and toddler parishioners.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card — located in the pews or display stands at the entrances of the chapels. Please give your card to an usher or place in the collection plate. Thank you. For the latest information on our online worship service and to view a video of our most recent service, please visit our website (www.icoh.net).

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS: Ann MacNamara, Carolyn Ferguson, Catherine Sinclair, Charlene Murphy, Chris von Schoening, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Debbie Hewson, Dick and Norma Taliaferro, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gordon Johnson, Hugh Campbell, Jane, Jim Hobson, Jim and Nancy Wise, Joseph, Kenny, Marcus, Marda Robillard, Mary Ann Rehnke, Mary Jane Ruhl, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Rollin Huntington, Thom Hussey, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Andrew Davis, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Barbara Kellner, Barbara Sagan, Becky Smith, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian and Joyce, Brian Van Buskirk, Bridget Rice Rose, Caleb Lusk, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Cy Murphy, Donna Becker, Frances, George Rustigian, Gerry, Gerry and Nan Hardison, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jean Couban, Jill Perkins, Jodi Wilson, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Karen Landry, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Linda Taucher, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Madeline, Marcia Richardson, Margie Lidoff, Mary Horner, Mary Muniz, Matt, McQuade Milligan, Melvyn and Stacy, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Sofia, Soundary Dilan, Stacey, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Thomas Henry, Tim Williams, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Denise Freeland, John Walker, Teddy Yates, Susan Cavanaugh, Sarah Clement, Thom Hussey, Kathy Lloyd, Spencer Wise, Jan Campbell, Betsy DeMulder, Susan Wiard, Holden Rush, and Juliet Houck.

Pray for those serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, Scott, and Philip Pretzinger.

Those who have died: Susan Taylor Montague, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, and the victims of avalanche near Lake Tahoe, California. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Lenten Series FORUM HOUR Begins TODAY: *Commending the Faith that is in Us:*



What might you say when someone asks what you believe?

“Eternal Life” presented by **The Very Rev. Ian Markham, Ph.D.**

In a world where Christian believers are surrounded by non-believers, skeptics, and truth seekers, believers will increasingly be asked what they believe, and why. Those inquiring will expect credible answers, yet many Christians fear they wouldn't know what to say, or even how to begin to engage these honest questions. We will engage typical questions, as they might come from seekers/sceptics and from fundamentalist Christians, even role-playing some possible responses together. Join us at **11:15a.m. in the Welcome Center today** to hear the Dean and President of VTS, **Dean Markham**, discuss *Eternal Life*. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, February 24th @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday Holy Eucharist Rite II, February 25th @ 12 Noon, Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer, Wednesday, February 25th @ 5:15 p.m., Oratory Chapel at Immanuel Chapel

NEW Weekly Bible Study: “*The Book of Genesis*” Thursday, February 26th
@10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline this Friday, February 27th@ 8:30 p.m., online via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with *The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs*: February 25th

Join Mother Sarah *this Wednesday, February 25th* at 10 a.m. for coffee and fellowship at the Alexandria Pastry Shop. All are invited to attend.



Interested in being Confirmed or Received? Might you want to re-affirm your faith publicly?

Would you or your teenager like to learn more about our faith and deepen participation in the life of the Church? Have you been confirmed in another Christian tradition but never received formally into the Episcopal Church? Might it be time to make a new and deeper public affirmation of your faith?

The [Sacrament of Confirmation](#) offers us the opportunity to renew the promises made for us at Baptism and to seek God's strength as we continue to keep those baptismal promises in our lives. Confirmation and Reception take place as part of Bishop Stevenson's visit, which will occur at Immanuel on **March 15, 2026**.

Please contact Father Randy (ralexander@icoh.net) Mother Sarah (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) with any questions as we begin to prepare.



Every Member Pledge Campaign Update: Thank you to all who have made a financial commitment to support our parish — vital to the life of this institution. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so promptly. You may return the pledge card that was mailed to you, pledge by scanning the QR code at right, or pledge through our website [our website](#), and click the green “Pledge Here” button.

As of February 19th, we have received 131 pledges so far, totaling \$688,450. This includes several new pledges and many who increased from last year. We hope for a total of \$725,000.

We thank everyone who has pledged thus far.



UPCOMING FORUM HOURS: 2026 Lenten Series *Commending the Faith that is in Us: What might you say when someone asks what you believe?*

March 1st

Zabriskie Parish Hall



THE INCARNATION AND BAPTISM

Lisa Kimball, Ph.D., Vice President for Lifelong Learning and the James Maxwell Professor Chair of Lifelong Christian Formation, Virginia Theological Seminary
Please note change of location to Zabriskie for this presentation.

March 8th

The Welcome Center
VTS Campus



THE BIBLE

The Rev. Kathy Grieb, Ph.D., Director Center for Anglican Communion Studies and Professor in New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary

March 15th

The Welcome Center
VTS Campus



THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia
(who will be with us for his visitation and Confirmation)

March 22nd

The Welcome Center
VTS Campus



THE RESURRECTION AND ATONEMENT

The Rev. Sarah Coakley, Ph.D., Priest Associate Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, former professor at Harvard Divinity School and Cambridge University



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

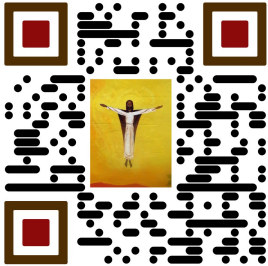
Brown Bag Lunch THIS Tuesday @ 12:15 p.m., Zabriskie Parish Hall

Our brown bag program this month is a video of the lecture delivered by the **Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde** at the Albert T. Mollegen Forum, held at VTS on February 3rd. Her topic was **The Politics of Mercy** and it is sure to inspire conversation.

Join us in the Parish Hall at **12:15pm on Tuesday, February 24**. Bring your own sandwich or salad, and drinks and dessert will be provided. No RSVP is necessary.

Are you looking for a way to grow your relationship with Jesus during this Lenten Season?
Join us for a Lenten book study and discussion on the thought provoking book:
***The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright**

What kinds of questions have you had about Jesus? Have you ever wondered if he knew that he was the Messiah? Have you ever been curious about how the resurrection could have occurred? Borg and Wright tackle these and other tough questions and come up with very different answers despite both being leaders in the Anglican tradition.



What: Book study and discussion about *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright. You can easily purchase the book from your favorite book seller.

Who: A collaboration between two Episcopal churches, facilitated by VTS seminarians **Cami Caudill** (St. Dunstan's) and **Signa Strom** (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill),

When: Thursdays at 7pm from **February 19th - March 19th** (5 weeks total)

Where: Meets on Zoom. Scan QR code to receive Zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/98FBVQmuXPDamfVa6>



***If you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life, come to our biweekly
Benedictine Community via Zoom***

If you want more contemplation in your life, you are invited to become part of the Benedictine Community at Immanuel. We regather in this new year 2026 for reflection – with a new spiritual resource – beginning **Tuesday, March 3rd** and meet (virtually) twice a month on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7 p.m-8p.m.** As a community, we reflect on how the tenets of St. Benedict, such as humility, silence, and prayer, can guide us in practical ways in our spiritual lives and our day-to-day endeavors. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book. We begin on February 3 to reflect on a new book: *Seeking God by Esther De Waal*.

If you are interested but can't join as we begin anew on February 17, that's fine, too. We welcome those interested to join us anytime. Our focus each week is primarily on reflections sparked by having read a few pages from the book. Our Benedictine Community gather as companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material and the ancient traditions and wisdom of Benedictine practice and prayer. With half or more of our current members residing outside of the area, we are using Zoom for our meetings, but if you are not comfortable with the video aspects of Zoom, you can simply call on the telephone and be connected to the Community by voice-only via Zoom. If this opportunity appeals to you or for more information, please contact Dana Hengst (dana.hengst@gmail.com), Barbara Fornoff (cr8vweaver@gmail.com) or David Atwood (David_Atwood@hotmail.com).



Help others find Immanuel!

Your review on Google can help people searching for a faith community. It only takes a minute.

- ☆ Scan the QR code at right
- ☆ Sign in to your Google account (*it's free to create one if you don't have one*)
- ☆ Click "Write a Review"
- ☆ Share a few sentences about your experience

Your words may be exactly what someone needs!





SIGN-UP TO SERVE: IT'S EASY AND ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through April 2026* ONLINE by visiting the landing page of our website at ICOH.net and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at left. If you're a student planning to spend occasional weekends home, feel free to **sign-up for only a Sunday or two**. Training for all lay ministries available upon request. **THANK YOU for your participation!**

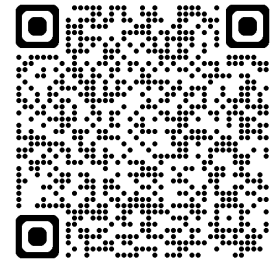


Immanuel Spring 2026 Retreat: We welcome everyone to join us for Immanuel's first local contemplative retreat.

Retreating is a restorative practice of Sabbath keeping. Join us as we explore a practice of holy rest and renewal, and ways to intentionally open ourselves to God's ever-presence in day-to-day life.

This retreat is for everyone! If you...

- have an interest in retreats, but are unable to take a weekend away;
- are not sure about retreats, and would like to try it out;
- are looking to learn about different contemplative practices; or
- love retreats and would like to take any and every opportunity to be on one ...this retreat is for you.



The retreat will be on **Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 9am to 2pm**, at Bicentennial Hall, on the campus of Virginia Theological Seminary. A light lunch will be served.

If you are interested, please [click here](#) to register for the retreat. The registration deadline is Monday, March 23. Please reach out to Katherine Maas at katherinemaas@gmail.com with any questions.



Immanuel came through with flying colors in the last month, bringing in 1,011 pounds of food for Alive ! Well done!!



We didn't correctly predict the Super Bowl winner ([Congrats Seattle!](#)) but our final week "Soup-er Bowl" helped us surpass the half-way point of our 2026 goal. The next month for collecting food will be June, then November for diapers /wipes and formula.

Alive! depends on volunteers to help our neighbors in need, simply scan the QR code at left to see where you can help. And thank you!

Lisa Clausen

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr. (ralexander@icoh.net) Rector
 The Rev. Susan D. Parsons (sparsons@icoh.net) Associate Rector
 The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) Associate Rector
 Signa Strom (sstrom@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net)..... Parish Administrator
 Tim Lawhorn Sexton
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net) Assistant Treasurer
 Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net) Finance Manager
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Mina Sultani Nursery Director
 Miguelina “Mimi” Guzmann Hospitality Assistant

THE VESTRY

Mark Fearer Senior Warden
 Brian Ply Junior Warden: Buildings and Grounds
 Doug Onley Junior Warden: Administration
 Brian Rush Social Justice
 Diana Walker Worship, Pastoral Care
 Rich Hobson Outreach
 Jennifer W. Greiner Adult Formation and Discipleship
 Dave John Fellowship
 Taylor Houck Stewardship and Planned Giving, Registrar
 Mary Ann Ring Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Newcomers, and Evangelism
 Jim Kurz Senior Ministry
 Martin Horne Communications
 Sydney Onley Youth Representative

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, *First Sunday of every month*
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel
 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Online

www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org
[Immanuel's YouTube channel](#)

PRIESTS ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley
 The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke
 The Rev. Jan A. Maas
 The Rev. John R. Smucker
 The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade

RECTOR EMERITA

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann (Sam) Faeth

MISSION STATEMENT: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, striving to be in relationship with God and each other as Christ has taught us, actively attempting to sense and to serve God’s plan with great love. We are guided by Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,” to learn, discern, and proclaim the Good News by being active ministers in the various communities where we live and serve.



PARISH OFFICE
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE