

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

December 15, 2024

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. Both chapels offer 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. 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: Aggie Fortune, Ann MacNamara, Barbara Ramsdell, Catherine Sinclair, Cynthia Dolvin, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Joan, Joseph, Ken and Mia Mason, Kenny, Lynn Gas, Mable Randolph, Margaret Messenger, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Ann Langdon Days, Anna Woodward, Ashleighana, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Betty Hicks, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Dana De Cecco, Dorothy Gerhart, Felicia Balzano, George Rustigian, Gerald, Jack Allen, Jean Couban, Jean Williams, Jennie Rae, Jessi Napolitano, Jill Lane, Joanne Perla, Joe Micelli, Joseph Fabian, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Joyce Di Misa, Kathryn Anschutz, Kathy Porter, the Rev. Kelly Moughty, Lavinia Johnson, Lilly Pinner, Linda Gill, Louise Jackson, Lucie Bauer, Lysbeth, Michael, Marcia Richardson, MariAnn Hollis, Marty Childs, McQuade Milligan, Mary Muniz, Pamela, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rebecca Smith, Richard Zitelli, Rosemary Wensing, Ryan Willis, Sarah Minor, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Candy Levin, Susan Stockton, Tiffany McCaslin, Kameran Onley, David Peabody, Kendra Smyth, Eve Anderson, Martha Byron, James Henry, Jo Ann Toledo, and David Phillips.

Serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, and Jonathan, Nicole, Alina and Nolan Anderson, and Scott.

Youth Tour of the Saint Nicholas Exhibit TODAY

Immanuel's Children and Youth of all ages are invited to tour VTS' St. Nicholas Exhibit after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist in the VTS Welcome Center.

After the tour, please stay to enjoy Santa-themed snacks — and a special visitor too!



PRIVATE CONFESSION AVAILABLE FOR YOU

All parishioners are reminded of the opportunity for private confession to a priest. This sacramental offering is always available, but is perhaps especially appropriate during seasons of preparation such as Advent. Our Anglican approach to private confession is summed up well in the old saying: “*All may, none must, some should.*” Please reach out to any of the clergy directly if you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 17th @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II, Wednesday, December 18th, Zabriskie Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Book of Luke*”
Thursday, December 19th @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.
Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Evening Compline, Friday, December 20th @ 8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom



UPCOMING SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

December 15	8:00 a.m.	<i>Gaudete Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite I</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist Rite II</i>	Immanuel Chapel
December 18	7:00 p.m.	<i>Blue Christmas Prayer Service</i>	Parish Hall
December 22	8:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir	Immanuel Chapel
December 24	4:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	8:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Choral Ensemble, Brass and Harp</i>	
	9:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass</i>	
December 25	11:00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Organ and Carols</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
December 29	8:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel
January 5, 2025	8:00 a.m.	Epiphany Sunday (transferred) with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Children’s Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by Festive Reception</i>	Immanuel Chapel

CHRISTMAS GREENS, FLOWERS and SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC DEDICATIONS

This Christmas season you are invited to make a donation to help offset the cost of our Christmas greens and flowers, and/or the special music at our Christmas Eucharists. To make a memorial or thanksgiving donation for a loved one, or to make a thanksgiving dedication for some blessing, please complete and send this form along with your check to the Parish Office or place it in the alms box in the narthex. Names will be printed in our Christmas bulletins for all donations received **by noon this WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.** Please print all names very clearly, or email names to DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.



GREENS/FLOWERS: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC: GENERAL \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:



Christmas Brass Quartet and Harp at Immanuel

Please indicate your special gift below with a checkmark.

Harp and Brass **SPONSOR \$100** Harp and Brass **PATRON \$200**

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road/ Alexandria, VA 22304-5200
www.Immanuel-on-the-Hill.org DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET



Praying with Scripture: An Opportunity for Reflection After Eucharist

Silent prayer or mediation draws us closer to God. When we focus on one of the Sunday scripture passages, we may discover more of God’s message to us. Beginning today — and continuing for the next three consecutive Sundays — we will have the opportunity to explore praying with scripture in the **Octagon Room** off the small Oratory Chapel following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pick up a treat at coffee hour, bring your bulletin, and join us to meditate on one of the scripture passages for the day. Our prayer time will conclude by 12:30 p.m.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD *with The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs* ***We will gather again this Wednesday, December 18th***

Join her this Wednesday from **10:00a.m. - 12 noon** at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. All are welcome!

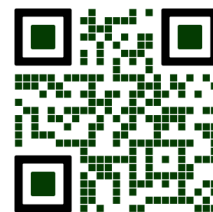


UPDATE: Every Member Pledge Campaign for 2025 “Living Gratefully”

As of Friday, December 5th, we had received around 100 pledges for a total of over \$548,000. This is a strong start, but we still have a ways to go, as we imagine this figure to be about half of those who will pledge. This is an opportunity for all of us to give back to God from all we have been given.

Prayerful and intentional pledging expresses our thanks for God’s many gifts, and it supports our beloved parish church in all of its many vital ministries and our life together in Christ.

In addition to filling out a hardcopy pledge form and mailing it to the church — or dropping it in the alms basis during a service — you can pledge online using Immanuel’s [website](#) and click the green *Pledge Here* button, or by scanning the QR code below at right.

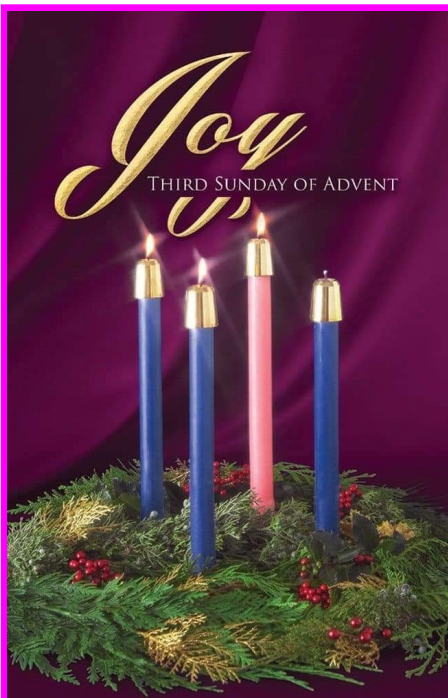


DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025 IT’S EASY TO SIGN UP ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2025* ONLINE — including Gaudete Sunday and Christmastide masses —by visiting the landing page of our website at ICOH.net and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at right.



THANK YOU for your participation!



GAUDETE SUNDAY

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, takes its name from the Latin word *Gaudete*, which means “rejoice.” It is the first word in the proper Introit for the third Sunday of Advent, from the Roman missal. It is often symbolized by a pink or rose color, hence the traditional pink candle in Advent wreaths.

The readings for this day are characterized by joy and expectancy, as we look towards the celebration of Our Lord’s Nativity.

Join with fellow Immanuelites in Richmond for the Virginia Interfaith Center "*Day for All People*" January 15, 2025

The Day for All People is the annual "lobby day" for the Interfaith Center, and Immanuel has long sent a sizable group to meet with our state representatives to learn about the legislative process and support legislation that advances issues of concern to a wide range of faith communities. We will once again rent a motor coach that we will share with folks coming from other Alexandria congregations. The Virginia Interfaith Center will be focusing its interaction with the General Assembly in part on two issues that the Vestry recently adopted as Immanuel policy:

- (1) legislation to make it easier for churches to build affordable housing on their property (a.k.a., "Yes in God's Back Yard"); this has been difficult for churches (such as nearby Resurrection) because of zoning restrictions (Immanuel has no such plans!); and
- (2) expanding prisoners' access to higher education, a priority of our Governor.

You can register on the Interfaith Center's website (go to www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org and scroll down). The Social Justice Committee can reimburse you if you'd like.

In this time of turmoil at the national level, it's rewarding to know that we can (and do) have a material impact on issues at the state level. Questions? Contact Jamie Conrad at jwc58@comcast.net.

Hear directly from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem about the impact of the Gaza war on ministries of the Diocese, Al Ahli Hospital, and St. George's College



Webpage with Video

A powerful 4-minute video from Director Suhaila Tarazi of Al Ahli hospital (which was supported by Immanuel Outreach and Social Justice funds this year) is now available (by scanning the QR code at left), showing both damage to the hospital, its current working conditions and caseload, how it transitioned into Southern Gaza, and her hope for the future.

In addition, on Tuesday, December 17 at 1 PM EST, Archbishop Hosam Naoum (who worshiped with us during his time at the Seminary over a decade ago) and Dean Richard Sewell of St. George's College/Jerusalem will discuss the situation in Jerusalem, Gaza/West Bank, and the broader Middle East as it affects their ministries. Registration is required in advance; please scan the QR code at right to register.



Scan for Webinar 12-17-24



The Nominating Committee has begun its work of recruiting new members of the Vestry. If you have any suggestions or input please feel free to reach out to any member of the Committee: Gerry Anderson, chair, Amy Thomas, Peter Kent, Julie Bruns, Kathy Lloyd, Doug John, and the Rector. All may be reached through the Parish Directory.



BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

The grief and pain of life do not have to be left at the church door at Christmas, but can sit alongside the hope and light at the heart of the Christmas message. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00p.m.** in **Zabriskie Parish Hall** for a service of prayer, lament, and hope.



Monthly Saturday Breakfast Bible Study **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st @ 8:00 AM Held Online via Zoom**

Join Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study **Saturday, November 16th** online via Zoom (find this bulletin on our website under the "Worship" tab, then click on the link below) beginning at 8 AM. Our new theme for 2024 is *Anxiety!* This month we will read **Psalm 62 "Rest in God alone, my soul! He is the source of my hope...trust in him...pour out your hearts to him"** using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, please visit [our webpage "Breakfast Bible Study"](#), or contact Chrissie Crosby at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com.

[Join Zoom Saturday Breakfast Bible Study Meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553 /Passcode: 027913



CONFIRMATION CLASS FORMING: Immanuel is scheduled for a Bishop's visitation and Confirmation on Sunday, March 16, 2025. We will form a Youth Confirmation Class and a separate track for adults who want to be Confirmed or Received. Please reach out to any of the clergy if you are interested.

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) Assistant Rector
 Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net) Assistant Treasurer
 Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net) Finance Manager
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net) Parish Administrator
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Gilma Balcarcel Nursery Coordinator
 Miguelina Guzmán Nursery Assistant
 Tim Lawhorn Sexton

THE VESTRY

Gerry Anderson Senior Warden and Senior Ministry
 Amy Thomas Junior Warden: Building and Grounds, Creation Care
 Peter Kent Junior Warden: Administration
 Taylor Houck Adult Formation and Discipleship
 Brad Ashton and Philip Brown Stewardship and Planned Giving
 Julie Bruns Outreach
 Kathy Lloyd Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
 Mark Fearer Social Justice and Pastoral Care
 Brian Rush Evangelism and Newcomers
 Matt Haskin Worship
 Caroline Bergmark Registrar, Communications
 Sophie Johnson, Sydney Onley, David Lloyd, and Isabelle Young-Smith Youth Representatives

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:30 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 F. 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 HOURS

Weekdays 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Fax: 703•370•0837

ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE