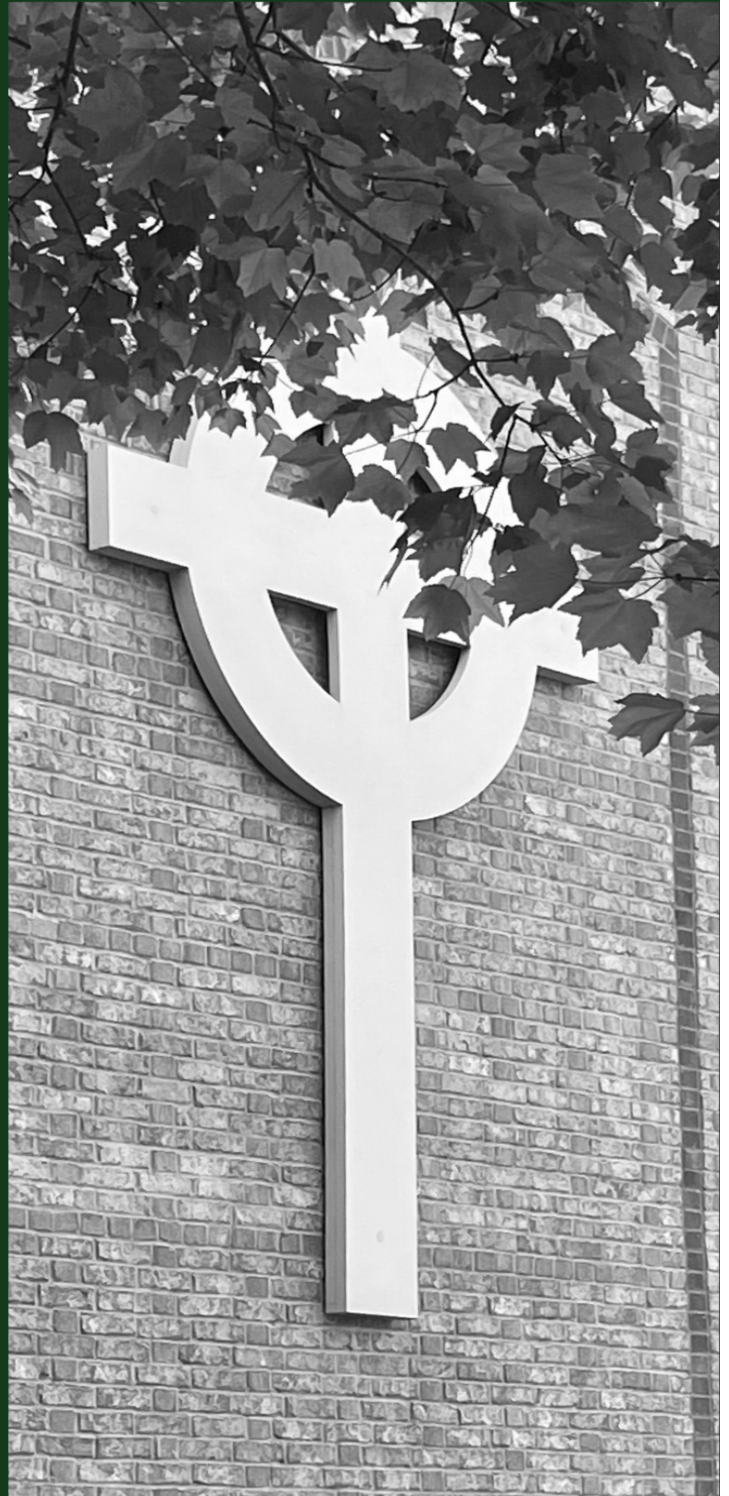


2023 - 2024

Parish Handbook



Saint Columba's
Episcopal Church

table of contents

Mission..... 4

Calendar 5

History and Vision..... 6

Worship at St Columba’s..... 7

Worship Ministries & Guilds 8

Sacramental Moments: Baptism, Weddings, Funerals..... 11

Christian Formation 12

Confirmation..... 13

Children and Teenagers 14

Opportunities to Serve 16

Advent & Holy Week..... 17

Pilgrimage to England..... 18

Fellowship..... 19

Communication 20

Membership 21

Ministry & Guild Contacts..... 22

Clergy & Staff Contacts 23



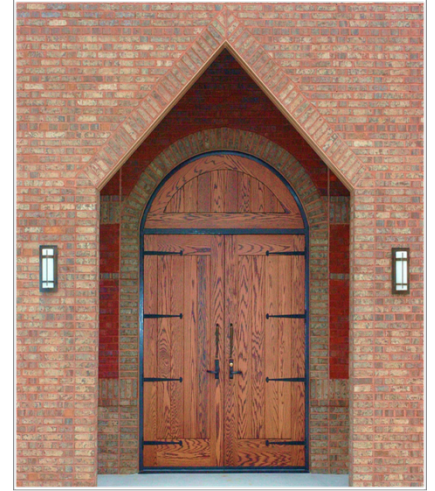
Our Mission

*“To be a holy place
where love is found,
where all are named,
and where hearts are freed
to change the world.”*

2023

at

Saint Columba's



- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| August | 06 | Vestry Mid-Year Retreat (12.30 pm) |
| | 13 | Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (9.30-10.45 am) |
| | 20 | 3 rd Sunday Parish Breakfast (9.15-11.00 am) |
| | 26 | Parish Workday (8.00 am – 1.00 pm) |
| September | 03 | Vestry Meeting |
| | 10 | 20 th Anniversary Celebration |
| | 17 | First Sunday of Sunday School
Youth Group Kick-Off & Family Dinner (5.00 pm) |
| | 24 | Newcomer Luncheon (12.30-1.30 pm) |
| | 29 | Michaelmass Liturgy, with guest preacher Fr Clive Wylie (<i>England</i>) |
| October | 01 | Guest Preacher & Reception, Fr Clive Wylie (<i>England</i>) |
| | 14 | Fall Festival & Camp-Out |
| | 15 | 3 rd Sunday Parish Breakfast (9.15-11.00 am) – <i>No Sunday School</i> |
| November | 01 | Low Mass for All Saints (7.00 pm) |
| | 02 | All Souls' Requiem Mass (7.00 pm) |
| | 05 | All Saints' Sunday & Annual Pledge Drive |
| | 19 | 3 rd Sunday Parish Breakfast (9.15-11.00 am) – <i>No Sunday School</i> |
| December | 02 | Advent Event & Luncheon (9.30a – 1.30p) |
| | 17 | 3 rd Sunday Parish Breakfast (9.15-11.00 am) – <i>No Sunday School</i> |
| | 20 | Greening of the Church |
| | 24 | The 4 th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve – <i>No Sunday School</i> |
| | | ▶ 8.30 am – Low Mass for Advent 4 |
| | | ✘ 5.00 pm – Christmas Eve Low Mass with Carols |
| | | ✘ 8.00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass |
| | | ✘ 11.00 pm – Midnight Mass |
| | 25 | Mass for Christmas Day (11.00 am) |
| | 31 | Combined Mass (11.00 am <i>only</i>) – <i>No Sunday School</i> |

A printed, updated three-month calendar is available on the lobby credenza.

St Columba's: Then & Now

FROM THE RECTOR

OUR PAST

St. Columba's began worshipping together on September 7, 2003 at South Forsyth Middle School and completed construction on the current church in August 2006. The first Mass in our church building was the ordination Mass of Father Joe Greene, our first curate. Bishop Alexander consecrated the building on August 20, 2006. Since those early beginnings, we have been blessed by the Holy Spirit with a passion and desire to spread the Good



News of Jesus Christ in all that we do. As the 93rd parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, we join with our sister parishes and make up the 7th largest diocese in the country with over 54,000 members living in north and central Georgia.

St Columba's began as a mission, started by the Bishop Neil Alexander, the ninth Bishop of Atlanta, and our launch was aided by a generous grant from St. Martin in the Fields parish, in Atlanta. Today, St. Columba's is the church home to over 1,200 members, with a vibrant, thriving youth ministry program, a strong commitment to discipleship and outreach ministry, and dedication to "radical hospitality." The present church is phase one of a multi-phase development plan. We own 16 acres and future building plans include a two-story education and meeting space, athletic fields, outdoor worship space, and a permanent church with a nave that will seat approximately 500. Throughout all phases of development, we will hold on to the friendly, welcoming, mission-centered feeling that has made St. Columba's the thriving parish community it is today.

OUR FUTURE

In 2023, we celebrate our 20th anniversary as a parish. Looking ahead, it is clear God is opening our eyes to see new ways we can embody our mission statement, *"to be a holy place where love is found, where all are named, and where hearts are set free to change the world."* The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that our common work as Christians is to be focused on **"restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ"** (BCP, p. 855).



Since the pandemic our life has changed drastically, both as individuals and as a parish community. Many of the things on which we had come to depend were suddenly and swiftly altered or vanished altogether; and as a result, churches are different than they were before the pandemic. But as we live into this new reality, the line from I Peter can be our guide: *"always be ready to give an accounting of the hope that is within you."* Hope is the crux of the Christian message. Hope is the gift God gives to us each day. So, it seems fitting to set before us this vision of hope and to use this line from I Peter along with the familiar line from Philippians, *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ."*

As we begin our 20th year as a parish family, together let us continue that good work of being God's hope to one another, bringing hope to the world around us, doing that good work which God has given us to do until that day when we are all joined together in the hope that unites us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father Tripp

The Rev'd Fr Tripp Norris, SCP
Rector

Worshipping Together

*"I will go unto the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness."*

- Psalm 43

Worshipping together is an essential part of our life as a Christian community. Each Sunday morning two Masses (also called Holy Communion or The Eucharist) are offered. Mass is our principal act of worship. We also gather mid-week in the chapel for a brief, contemplative Mass and Compline (night prayer). In our worship together, we are gathered from wherever we are in life and enter into the mystery of God. The prayers and liturgy from our rich Anglican, Catholic tradition provide us with a sense of God's love that inspires us to be witnesses and disciples and to go out into the world to love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. As the psalmist invites us all, "I will go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness." Come, worship with us each week!



8.30 AM – LOW MASS

Our first Mass on Sunday mornings uses the Rite I liturgy (traditional language) and a simplified liturgical style. There is no choir or hymns at this liturgy. It is a fully said Mass with organ music. This Mass lasts approximately 40 minutes and during the school year precedes Sunday School. Coffee and fellowship follow. For those coming to St Columba's from another tradition, this may be the most accessible liturgy.

11.00 AM – HIGH MASS

Our 11.00 Mass is a sung, choral Mass. It is called 'High Mass' because of the rich ceremony, use of incense, and sung liturgy. Congregational hymns add to the beauty of this liturgy. This liturgy lasts an hour and presents the splendor of the Christian faith from the perspective of our rich Anglican heritage with some of the most beautiful organ and choir music in our diocese.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Mid-week we have the opportunity to gather for a more contemplative prayer service. We begin with Low Mass in the chapel at 6.30 pm. At 7.00, we have dinner and a program. We conclude at 8.15 pm with Compline. During Lent, we modify our schedule to allow for Stations of the Cross liturgy before our Lenten dinner and program. Our Wednesday program is offered September-May and suspends for the summer.

Worship Ministry Opportunities



There are many ways to get involved at St Columba's. None of those are more central than the ministries that support our parish core, our worship life. Please consider joining one of the many guilds and fellowship ministries that help us live into our parish mission of being "a holy place where love is found, and all are named ..."

ACOLYTES

Acolytes assist at both the 8.30 and 11.00 Sunday Masses, as well as at other special services, weddings, and funerals throughout the year. Acolytes carry the processional cross and torches, and they also assist the priest in preparing the Altar for Communion. In addition, high school and adult acolytes also serve as thurifer (carrying incense) at High Masses. The Rota (schedule) is an online self-sign up, so acolytes serve as often as they would like. Training is provided at the start of each school year, as well as individually when a new acolyte begins.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild prepares the Altar and nave for our Sunday and weekday liturgies, care for the vestments and altar linens, and provide a community of prayer and support behind our worship life. The Guild's ministry is vital to our parish life and Guild members will attest to the rewards each receive from attending to our altar preparing it for worship. Members serve in teams of 5-8, with each team serving one week each month. The Guild is open to all adult members of the parish (women and men), and training is provided for all those who would like to join this ministry and/or who wish to learn more as they discern a call to the Altar Guild.

CHALICE BEARER

Chalice bearers assist at the Altar on Sunday mornings serving a chalice during Holy Communion. Like most of our worship ministries, the Rota is online, so members serve at the times and Sundays that work with their own schedules. To serve as a chalice bearer, members need only be confirmed members of the Episcopal Church, and training is provided. Often chalice bearers will also serve as a lector on the Sundays they are scheduled as chalice bearers.

CHOIR

The St. Columba's Choir sings each week at the 11.00 Mass from the Feast of the Assumption in mid-August through the Feast of St Columba (9th June). The choir rehearses each Thursday evening at 7:00 pm and again on Sunday mornings before Mass. Occasionally, the choir sings the office of Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The choir also serves as a vital part of other celebrations of the year, from the All-Souls' Requiem, to the joyous Solemn Mass of the Nativity, and the solemn Triduum and Easter. Our choir warmly welcomes new singers of all voice parts. You do not need a trained voice or previous experience with a choir—we help you gain all the skills you need.

COFFEE HOSTS

Coffee Hosts make up an integral part of our Sunday morning hospitality ministry. Working in teams, volunteers set up the coffee station, as well as juice and pastries and refresh as needed throughout the morning. Often the teams divide up Sunday morning so half of the team does the set up and covers the first Mass and the other half of the team covers the second Mass and cleans up. Each team serves one Sunday a month. The coffee ministry provides a great way to meet fellow parishioners and for visitors and newcomers to get a good sense of what St Columba's is like. Pour a second cup and consider being part of this important welcoming ministry!

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

A new ministry at St Columba's, Eucharistic Visitors are adult members of the parish who volunteer to take Holy Communion to our hospitalized or homebound parishioners who are unable to come to church. This is a specialized ministry and training is provided. Once the training has been completed, volunteers are licensed by the Bishop to extend our sacramental ministry with those who are unable to worship with us in person on Sunday mornings. The clergy of the parish will continue their sacramental visits to those who are sick, in assisted living, hospitalized, or are temporarily or permanently homebound. Eucharistic Visitors augment the ministry of the clergy in these situations, so that we stay connected and share together the caring for 'young and old alike.' Eucharistic Visitors are discharged during the liturgy on Sunday mornings with the blessing of the congregation and carry out their visits that Sunday. Volunteers serve on a schedule as often as they are able and would like to serve.

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild arranges flowers for each Sunday Mass as well as for special liturgies and parish events during the year. Like the Altar Guild, the Flower Guild is arranged into teams of 2-3 members each serving one weekend a month. The guild is open to all teenagers and adults of the parish. Training is provided so it's absolutely fine if you have never arranged flowers before. Each team sets its own schedule, meeting to arrange flowers usually on Friday or Saturday. Visitors are always welcome to come one weekend to observe and see if this ministry may be something you'd enjoy joining.

GREETERS

Greeters are a group of parishioners whose ministry is primarily focused on welcoming all to church on Sunday mornings and engaging with potential new members of our parish. Greeters are usually the first person someone sees when they arrive at church, and they are also the first contact a visitor has with the parish. St Benedict said that when you welcome the visitor, you are welcoming Christ Himself. In that same spirit this vital ministry is about fostering that spirit of radical hospitality. Greeters usually serve one Sunday a month at either the early or later Mass. When welcoming a first-time visitor, Greeters assist them in finding their way around, meeting one or two others in the parish, as well as presenting them with a welcome packet. This is one of our most important ministries for evangelism and growth.

LECTORS

Lectors read the lessons – the Word of God – at our Sunday and weekday liturgies. Being a reader is more than just fulfilling a task. At its best, being a Lector is a calling, vocation, and a spiritual discipline. Reading is a commitment to effective sharing of Scripture so that we all may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest the very Word of God. This is one of the best ways to get involved in the parish, as the time commitment is light. The schedule is online, so each member signs up for the Sundays they can serve.

LIVESTREAM

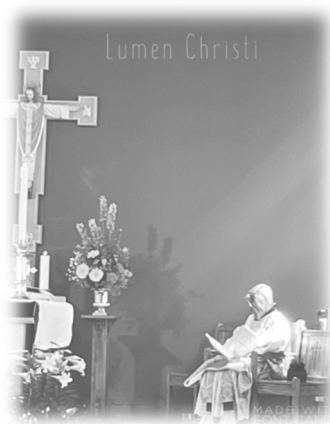
Our 11.00 am Sunday Mass is streamed live each week, and our guild of volunteers also serve at the early Mass controlling the sound. We need 2 volunteers per Mass to serve one or both Sunday Masses. Volunteers sign up to serve once a month, or more often if they wish. The set up looks complicated, but the software does most of the work and training is provided for those new to the livestream ministry team. All are welcome, including high school youth!

SUBDEACONS

The subdeacon, deacon, and celebrant are known as the Sacred Ministers at Mass. They serve at the altar as one, a visible sign of the ministry that every Christian—lay and ordained—shares. The subdeacon represents the lay people of the parish and assist the celebrant at the altar during Mass. St Columba's has a growing number of subdeacons and we need more volunteers. Adults and high school teenagers are invited to join the guild of subdeacons (and, as is the case with all of our worship ministries, no previous experiences is necessary – we'll provide full training).

USHERS

The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the church. The usher ministry can be summed up quite simply: ushers are tasked with making people feel welcome at church. They are the primary ministers of welcome, along with the Greeters, and assist parishioners in finding their way to a pew prior to worship, providing each person with a bulletin, guiding people forward for receiving Communion, passing the collection plate, and tallying the collection after Mass. Ushers also are attentive to any special needs someone may have during worship and responding if anyone falls ill during church. Ushers serve on teams of 4-8 and serve one Sunday a month. Training is provided, and this ministry is open to all adults (women and men) as well as high school teenagers.



Sacramental Moments

Baptism

Baptism is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. In Baptism, we are joined to Christ in his death and resurrection and made members of his body the Church. A period of preparation precedes baptism: for adults, this preparation lasts several weeks; for infants and young children, the class meets generally at 12:30 pm two Sundays prior to the baptism and lasts approximately 30 minutes. At this class, you will learn all about the sacrament itself, have the opportunity to ask questions about the baptismal liturgy, and learn ways on how you can incorporate the faith into your family life. Adults are often baptized at the Easter Vigil, a liturgy held on Saturday evening before Easter Sunday.

Baptisms are scheduled on certain Sundays (and other Holy Days during the Church year) which are designated by the Book of Common Prayer and diocesan policy as appropriate for the celebration of Holy Baptism. A schedule of these baptismal dates is found on our website (you will see the dates when you click the “complete the form” link). If these dates are not going to work for your family members who wish to travel to be here for the baptism, we will work with you and do our best to find a date that will work. The first step in scheduling a baptism is to speak with the Rector, usually one Sunday before or after Mass.

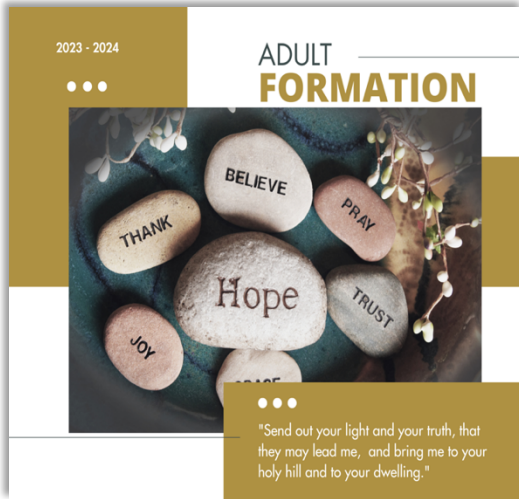
Weddings & Renewal of Marriage Vows

Getting married is one of the most exciting times in a couple’s life together. Much has gone into your relationship already to bring you to this point, and the parish community of St. Columba's is honored to help you celebrate your wedding. As you come to the Church seeking to be married, you are asking God to enter into your relationship and bless your union together. St. Columba's is an ideal place for such a celebration: the wedding liturgy and the sacredness of our parish church provide a wonderful beginning for couples starting their lives together. We have a complete information booklet on our website for those wanting to learn more about getting married at St Columba’s. The first step in the marriage process is a meeting with the Rector, Father Tripp Norris.

Renewal of Marriage Vows is something that many couples will choose to do at various milestone moments in their lives together. It’s a true joy to gather either as part of a Sunday Morning Mass or as a private event so that you may renew your vows. This can be a simple, prayerful liturgy or one that is marked with friends and family gathered round with as much liturgical prayer as you’d like. We can do these on Sunday morning during our regular Mass or on a Saturday (or other weekday). Speak with the Rector when you begin planning.

Funerals

The death of a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences we go through in life. The ministry of the Church is one of the ways God gives to us to manage our grief and help us begin the task of grieving. We have printed a booklet that can help you plan in advance your own funeral as well as explain what steps should be taken when a death is near or soon after the death of a loved one. This booklet can be found in the main lobby as well as on our parish website.



Christian Formation

As Christians, we spend our entire lives, from baptism to death, becoming disciples of Christ and growing in faith. As Episcopalians, this process of formation is shaped especially by our liturgy and life together. This understanding of formation shapes our parish programs that we offer for all

ages and kinds of learners, regardless of where one may be on their spiritual journey. Each program is intended to equip us for ministry and to foster spiritual growth through common prayer, life in community, sacred stories, and mission in and to the world.

Our calendar for Adult Christian Formation offerings for 2023-2024 is below. The Sunday morning programs take place each week at 9.45 am in the Narthex. The Wednesday evening programs are at 7.00 pm. Preceding the program a short, contemplative Mass is offered in the Chapel, and we conclude the evening with Compline at 8.15. The Wednesday evening programs also include a light supper. Each class is designed to stand on its own, so if you miss a Sunday/Wednesday, it's not a problem to join the class the following week. Please attend as you are able. We hope to offer the Wednesday program as a hybrid class – both in person and online via Zoom. Details will be in the weekly Parish Post e-newsletter. Breakfast Sundays take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and so all Sunday school programs (youth and adult) suspend on the 3rd Sundays for the parish breakfast (unless otherwise noted).

SUNDAY MORNINGS

SEPTEMBER

3
10
17
24

20th Anniversary Celebration

The Pilgrim's Way
Exploring Core Beliefs of the Christian Faith
Sept 17 – Oct 29

OCTOBER

1
8
15
22
29

B'fast Sun

NOVEMBER

5
12
19
26

B'fast Sun

DECEMBER

3
10
17
24

B'fast Sun

Christmas Break

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

SEPTEMBER

6
13
20
27

The Difficult Words of Jesus

A Bible Study by Amy-Jill Levine

September 6 – October 25
(will not meet on 10/4)

OCTOBER

4
11
18
25

Fall Break

NOVEMBER

1
8
15
22/29

Thanksgiving Break

Advent's Music & Poetry

Nov 1 – Dec 20
(will not meet 11/22 or 11/29)

DECEMBER

6
13
20
27

Christmas Break

SUNDAY MORNINGS

JANUARY

7 *Christmas Break*
14
21 *B'fast Sun*
28

Opening Up the Old Testament

Why the OT is Significant for Christians
Jan 14 – Feb 11

FEBRUARY

4
11
18 *B'fast Sun*
25

Remember Who You Are

Baptism's Model for the Christian Life

Lenten Series:
Feb 25 – Mar 24

MARCH

3
10
17 *B'fast Sun*
24
31 *Easter Sunday*

APRIL

7
14
21 *B'fast Sun*
28

The Book of Common Prayer

Rhythms of Grace & Spiritual Growth
Apr 7 – May 12

MAY

5
12 *Youth Sunday*
19 *Pentecost Sunday*

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

JANUARY

3 *Christmas Break*
10
17
24
31

Anglican Faith

From Rome to An Anglican Communion:
History, Liturgy, and Music

Jan 10 – Feb 7

FEBRUARY

7
14 *Ash Wednesday*
21
28

Lent's Goal:

Restoring Relationships through Prayer,
Fasting, Penitence

Feb 21 – Mar 20

MARCH

6
13
20
27 *Holy Week*

APRIL

3 *Easter Break*
10
17
24

Spiritual Momentum

The Abiding Life of Christian Joy and Love

April 10 – May 15

MAY

1
8
15



CONFIRMATION CLASSES (ADULTS AND HIGH SCHOOL TEENAGERS)

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the rite by which we make a mature profession of our faith before the bishop and take on responsibility for our faith and membership in the Church. Since we become full members of Christ's body and the Church through our baptism, confirmation is a strengthening of the gifts given to us in baptism and our response and promise to live out the vows of our baptismal covenant: continuing in the Apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread, the prayers of the Church, persevering in resisting evil, repenting of our sins and returning to our Lord, proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, striving for justice and peace, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

Classes are held in "even numbered years," so our next class will begin in January 2024. If you have a special circumstance and need to be confirmed before our next class begins, please speak with Father Tripp.



Youth Formation & Fellowship



All youth Sunday school classes meet Sunday mornings from 9.45-10.45 am (September – May). Classes will suspend on the third Sunday of each month so that everyone can participate in the 3rd Sunday parish breakfast. Classes will also not meet on some of the weekends when Forsyth County schools are on break. Please see the weekly Parish Post e-newsletter for full details.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 3 years through 5th Grade

We are pleased to offer one of the best formation programs for children: the highly successful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program. It is designed for children from three years of age up through fifth grade.

This curriculum is rooted in Holy Scripture, the liturgies of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in a beautifully and carefully designed "atrium" equipped with simple yet beautiful materials which the children use to explore with surprising depth the mysteries at the heart of Christian faith. The major components of the program include:

- *Prayer & Bible*
- *Jesus as the Good Shepherd*
- *Baptism*
- *The Holy Eucharist*
- *Jesus in his Historical and Geographical Context*
- *Paschal Mystery & Easter*
- *Parables*
- *The History of Salvation & the Kingdom of God*

In addition, **First Communion Classes** take place within the Catechesis program and are held each year after Christmas, with the First Communion Mass taking place in early March.



Growing In Christ Program

Middle and High School Teens

We are very excited this year to be rolling out a new youth group program designed to guide our teenagers as they transition from childhood to adulthood in the Christian faith by providing them the means to explore the deep truths of the Gospel and their implications for how we live our lives and interact with others.

For the first stage of our program, our youth will examine in detail the Baptismal Covenant, a series of statements of belief and promises made on their behalf at Baptism. This includes the Apostles' Creed, an ancient summary of the deep mysteries of Christian belief.

The second stage focuses on living our lives in accordance with the Gospel of Christ and serving the Church and the world as full adult members of the Church.

All stages of this curriculum are hands-on. Rather than listening and learning facts, teenagers experience for themselves and learn from one another what it means to be united with Christ in Baptism and to one another as his Body, the Church. This year's program will be led by Caroline Carter, Father Joe Greene, Jason Startt, and Adam Spencer.



EYC (aka Youth Group)

Youth group officially kicks-off the year on Sunday, 18th September at 5.00 pm with our annual cook-out. EYC (which stands for Episcopal Youth Community) meets just about every Sunday of the school year at 5.00 pm. Open to all middle and high school youth, EYC is the fellowship part of our youth formation program. We are strong leaders and active participants in the diocesan youth ministry program, which St Columba's helped re-launch a number of years ago. As such, the diocesan wide events like New Beginnings retreat for middle school and Happening retreat for high school are highlights of our year together. We will have two lock-ins during the year, the first being at our parish fall festival and the second in the spring as our high school seniors prepare for graduation and college. We have a "youth homecoming" of sorts prepared for December when we welcome back former EYC members who are home from college on Christmas break. Our full program schedule is posted on the parish website and each week youth and their parents get a weekly EYC email and GroupMe post with details about the upcoming program and schedule information. Contact our youth director, Caroline Carter, to be added to these two news contact groups.





Opportunities To Serve

“Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which He looks Compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

(Prayer attributed to St Teresa of Ávila)

Serving the community lies at the heart of our parish life. The two primary ministries we support year-round are the food pantries of **The Place of Forsyth** and **Emmaus House** in Atlanta. Each week, we are invited to remember these ministries as we do our grocery shopping by bringing in extra goods, pastas, and other needed items for those who are struggling with food scarcity. Combined, these two food pantries assist more than 1,000 families each month. Without our help, some of those families may go hungry for days. Food can be dropped off any Sunday as well as during the week when the parish offices are open. Volunteers take turns delivering the food to The Place and to Emmaus House, and we are always in need of additional volunteers to assist with these monthly deliveries.

In addition to these two primary outreach ministries, St Columba's assists the ministry of **Rainbow Village**. Rainbow Village is a ministry of our Diocese that provides transitional housing for displaced families who have school aged children. Some of the ways in which we support Rainbow Village are Thanksgiving Dinner, summer lunches, 'stock the kitchen' for families as they move into their own apartment, and after school tutoring. The needs change frequently depending on the community at Rainbow Village and so our support of their ministry is always adapting to help however we can.

Episcopal Relief and Development is another outreach ministry we support each Lent as well as in response to natural disasters. Episcopal Relief and Development (ER-D) is an international relief and disaster agency of the Episcopal Church whose mission is to facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, war, and disease. Each Lent, we do 'mite boxes' to collect donations that are sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. When a natural disaster occurs, often ER-D will send out an appeal to all parishes in the country asking for donations. We are proud to be able to respond in those times of crises.

Where will you be able to plug in? Serving is central to the Christian life. Find a ministry (or even start a new outreach ministry) in which God is calling you to share the gifts you have been given and be the hands of Christ in this world.

Advent & Holy Week at St Columba's

Advent Quiet Day Retreat: Saturday, 2nd December
9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Advent is an incredible time of the year, a season of preparation and hope-filled expectation. To help us step out of the hecticness that descends upon us each December, we'll take a half-day to focus on the heart of the Advent season looking at what the coming of Christ means and how our looking for His Second Coming fills us with hope-filled expectation. All are welcome to attend. The day will be spent with reflections shared by the clergy, time hearing and discussing the Scriptures of hope and the coming Christ, singing some of the music of Advent (and looking at the phenomenal texts that make up our Advent hymns), and quiet prayer. More details can be found online this Fall as well as in the Parish Post e-newsletter's November issues.



Holy Week & The Sacred Triduum
24th – 30th March 2024



The week before Easter is one of the holiest times of the year. Beginning with the liturgy of Palm Sunday (24th March), we set out on a week that changed the world. Each day of the week, we'll have a special program and a chance to immerse ourselves in prayer, as ancient as the Church yet more relevant today than ever before. Monday and Tuesday will focus on the role of the angels, the messengers of God. Wednesday will focus on the sacred Eucharist – the Body of Christ for the salvation of the world. The Sacred Triduum (the sacred three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) have three of the most beautiful and moving liturgies. Plan now to set aside these six evenings so that the week that changed the world 2000 years ago can change yours now.

Pilgrimage 2024: England



In early September, we'll have a preliminary gathering with information about our parish pilgrimage to England (Norwich Cathedral and The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham). Postponed because of the pandemic, we would like to get our pilgrimage back on schedule and have tentatively set a target of Spring or early Summer 2024 for the trip. Open to all members of the parish and friends, the trip will be a pilgrimage to a rural portion of England in the Diocese of Norwich. We'll be hosted by Our Lady St Mary parish in South Creake and will stay at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The pilgrimage will include a 'church crawl,' visiting churches of the Creakes Benefice (seven churches built as early as 800 AD and the 'newest' built in the early 13th century). We will also spend time at the Shrine, where thousands of tourists from all over the world come each year for prayer and renewal. In addition, we will have time to visit some of the ancient Abbey ruins near Walsingham.

The first two Sundays in October 2023, Father Clive Wylie, SCP will be visiting us. Father Wylie is the rural dean of Walsingham and rector of Our Lady St Mary's parish in South Creake and will talk about our establishing a sister relationship between our two parishes. Father Clive and Father Tripp are also members of the Anglican Society of Catholic Priests and will serve as our Pilgrimage tour guides.

The cost of this trip will be approximately \$3000 per person (inclusive of airfare and most meals), but the full details, cost and itinerary will be finalized after we have our first meeting and adjust the proposed itinerary with requests the group going would like to make.



Fellowship

at SAINT
COLUMBA'S

Getting connected with fellow parishioners is essential to belonging to a church community. St Columba's offers several opportunities for you to get involved with church-wide events, celebrations, and small groups that help you connect with others while exploring issues that matter to you.

Celebration Group

St Columba's Celebration Group is a group of parishioners who meet quarterly to celebrate and enjoy fellowship together. The theme of each gathering is usually birthday and anniversary milestone celebrations. We have a great time enjoying food and friendship. The dates for the quarterly celebrations are published on the parish calendar, *The Parish Post* e-newsletter, and the Sunday Bulletin. All parishioners and friends are always welcome.

Daughters of the King

Members of The Order of the Daughters of the King are women who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We women who are strengthened by a commitment to a Rule of Life and the support of the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey: some have just begun, and some have been on their spiritual path for a long time. No matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same: to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others. Our DOK chapter meets in the Chapel on the 3rd Sunday of each month for prayer. In addition, the chapter hosts an online prayer community and sponsors several workshops and retreats during the year for the whole parish.

Knights of Columba

Men of the parish gather for fellowship, service projects, prayer, and special events throughout the year. From simple pancake breakfasts, to cooking for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser this group has a lot of fun as they build community within the parish. St. Columba's Men's ministry is committed to fostering a community of Christ-like men who impact the home, their church, their work communities, and the world. We value growing in our relationship with God and one another, giving to our families, our church, and our communities.

Pacesetters

Pacesetters meets once a month for a brown bag lunch and occasionally will invite a guest speaker to share with us about a topic of interest. We also continue to serve as a pool of volunteers for projects around the parish as well as a sounding board for potential new projects. We also help parishioners connect with local community outreach ministries like Meals on Wheels or Backpacks of Love. Recently we have expanded our activities to include tours of some of the local attractions and venues of interest, like the Little White House in Warm Springs, the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, and the Blue Ridge Scenic Railroad. We meet at 11:30 am on the last Monday of each month at the church and everyone is invited to join us!

Guild of St Rose

The Guild of St Rose is a group of parishioners who make prayer shawls for those in need, make Christmas ornaments and other handmade items for sale to support the ministries of the parish, and host our annual Advent bake sale. Originally the Guild was formed to make the kneelers around the altar. Since then, they have grown into a robust ministry of talent and fellowship. All are welcome!

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is a meeting of parishioners of all ages for fellowship, food, and fun. The group meets once a month for food and libations either at a parishioner's home or nearby restaurant/pub. Theology on Tap is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of your fellow parishioners in a context outside of the church. The group meets once a quarter; and details of upcoming gatherings are published in the parish calendar, weekly e-newsletter, and Sunday Bulletin.

Communication

*The Parish Post, The Sunday Bulletin,
The Parish Website, & Realm*

Staying connected at St Columba's is easy to do. There are multiple vehicles of communication, so you can decide which one works best for you. It all begins with your completion of the Parish Registration Form. This form (which can be picked up from the Welcome Center on Sunday Mornings or completed electronically through the parish website) is how you are added to the ministry news distribution lists as well as communicating your communication preferences to us. Once you have completed the Parish Registration, we will add your email address(es) to the parish database, as well as your other contact information, your birthdate and anniversary date, and your choice whether or not you would like your contact information available to the other members of the parish. From there you control the flow of information to you. We communicate calendar, news, and ministry highlights in four ways.

The Parish Post

The Parish Post is our weekly e-newsletter that is sent out mid-week via email. The first time you receive this email, it may appear in a 'promotions' or possibly even 'spam' folder (depending on which email platform you use). Once you pull the Parish Post email into your inbox, you should not have any issues receiving it moving forward. The Parish Post will have short articles and pictures highlighting upcoming events and opportunities to get involved. It will also have a link to the Sunday morning ministry schedule. We also send out a "Weekend Update" email on Sunday mornings that contains the link to the livestream and Bulletin for the 11.00 Mass.

The Sunday Bulletin

The Sunday Bulletin has announcements and parish calendar at the back. This is a great way to keep abreast of what's going on in the parish, reminders of upcoming events, and find ways in which you can share your time and talent through any of the ministries of the parish. You are encouraged to take the Bulletin with you after Mass as it's a great tool to aid your prayers during the week as well as keep the parish calendar on your refrigerator. It's also a great tool for inviting friends to church with you!

The Parish Website

SAINTCOLUMBA.NET is the address of our parish website where you can find a ton of information, links to special events, details about programs and ministries, and forms for baptisms, weddings, Sunday school, funerals, and pledge/tithe donations. We update the website regularly, so you're invited to check it frequently. The full parish calendar can also be viewed through the website.

ACS Realm

The parish database is called "Realm" and is a secure way to communicate within each ministry, view the parish directory, view your donations, and sign up for special events. To keep the data secure, you will need to request from the parish office login credentials. We are happy to help you create a Realm account.



Join  **realm**
and stay connected!

Membership at St Columba's



Choosing a church home is a very important decision. St. Columba's is a welcoming parish with a strong commitment to community and witness to the Gospel. We seek to be a parish that serves the community and help each other grow to know Christ in deep and life-changing, life-giving ways. If you are interested in learning more about St. Columba's, attend one of the newcomer receptions that are held five times a year (dates are available on the parish website or from the welcome table). As you are looking for a church home, worship for 3-4 consecutive Sundays with each of the churches you are considering so that you might get a sense of each community and their spiritual life. We sincerely hope you will choose to make your home at St. Columba's, and we will be glad to help you in any way that we can.

When you are ready to become a member, simply fill out a parish registration form (*which can be picked up from the Welcome Center in the Narthex and online on our parish website: Www.SaintColumba.Net*). Introduce yourself to a member of the clergy and/or one of the greeters on Sunday morning. Then, and perhaps most importantly, join a ministry or small group that interests you - this is the best way to experience a sense of belonging and to be fed spiritually. Finally, make a commitment to worship regularly. All that we do at St. Columba's begins and flows out from our worship together. There are several different categories of membership. The word "member" denotes either a confirmed communicant or baptized member.

CONFIRMED MEMBERS

Confirmed communicants are baptized persons who have been confirmed in, or received into, the Episcopal Church and whose names are enrolled in the parish register. Names are enrolled either by confirmation, reception, or a letter of transfer from another Episcopal parish or church of another denomination. This all begins by first completing a parish registration form. One must be enrolled in the parish register to serve on vestry, vote at parish meetings, and serve in some of the parish ministry leadership positions.

BAPTIZED MEMBERS

All baptized persons of any age may be enrolled in the parish register. Names are enrolled either by being baptized at St Columba's, letter of transfer, or personal request. Again, this all begins by completing a parish registration form.

ASSOCIATES

Associates are persons who are active in a limited way in the life of the parish but whose official membership remains elsewhere. This category is often called "friends of the parish," and are on our mailing list but not counted in our membership totals.

STEWARDSHIP

All parishioners are given the opportunity and privilege of making an annual pledge to support the ministries of the parish. When you are asked to make a monetary pledge and to participate in the life of the parish, please do so knowing that you are giving back a part of God's gift to you. Financial gifts support the day-to-day expenses of the parish as well as fund the outreach ministries to the community.

Ministry Contacts

These are omitted in the online version.

*Please contact the parish office
or pick up a printed copy of the
Parish Handbook from church
for these contacts.*

Clergy & Staff Contact

PARISH OFFICE
(770) 888-4464

RECTOR
The Rev'd Father Tripp Norris, SCP
(770) 888-4464

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC
Mr Daniel Hahn
(770) 888-4464

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
Ms Caroline Carter
(770) 888-4464



*The full list of clergy, staff, and vestry contacts
are omitted in the online version.*

*Please contact the parish office
or pick up a printed copy of the
Parish Handbook from church
for these contacts.*



**Saint Columba's Church
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[Www.SaintColumba.Net](http://www.SaintColumba.Net)