Down By The Riverside

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church Columbus Blvd & Christian St, Philadelphia, PA 19147 215-389-1513

Thoughts from the Rector

Ashes to Ashes...Dust to Dust

God looked over everything he had made; and it was good, so very good! (Genesis 1:31, version from The Message)

I am struck this Lenten season with thoughts about what makes each of us both different and alike. No two people are alike. We are all as individual and unique as we can be. Like snowflakes, or roses, or lightning bolts, or grains of sand – no two are alike; each is one of a kind. So it is with all of us. And that helps us understand the enormity, the uncontainable, the eternal nature of our Creator God. And it is a good and helpful thing for us to remember, and tell each other, when we get down on ourselves. We are all special!

Yet it is also true that we are all made of the same stuff. The stuff of the cosmos. The intricate particles of matter that make up the universe are shared among and within all living things. We are dust. No matter our form, or personality, or culture, or color, or faith or gender. We share an intrinsic oneness with the earth and the stars, with the flora and fauna, and with each other.

When we begin our Lenten Journey by marking ourselves with ashes and reminding ourselves, "we are dust and to dust we shall return," we are not so much being encouraged to face our own mortality as we are to open wide our hearts and minds to our connectedness, our part in the creation that God called good. As a first step on the road to the cross and resurrection we are assured that this is not some ancient story that has nothing to do with us, nor is it myth or fable. It's our story. It's about all of us.

I find myself this Lent oddly uplifted by the journey that includes temptations and trials as well as miracles and healings. The road that includes life and death and new life, like the life we see clearly in the seasons of the earth and the stars and the generations, leads us into a greater understanding of why each tree, each bird, each continent or sea, and every person is important.

And so, when Easter comes, when that great wakin' up morning dawns and we can see our faces in the memories and dust and rising sun shining off of

each other's images - well then, we will say Alleluia! And until then, let us all know, and rejoice, that we are part and parcel of God's Good Creation. We are dust and to dust we shall return. Alleluia!

Peace,

Joy+





Wednesdays in Lent Food, Fellowship, Study

We are gathering once again on the Wednesdays in Lent, to share a simple fare of soup and sandwiches, some fellowship and worship, and a time of reflection and study. And we've change our previously announced program. We are studying saints – saints ancient and modern – and how they might be examples for us in our lives. We are using the Lent Madness 2016 bracket of saints for our examples. (www.lentmadness.org). This allows for some familiar saints and some perhaps never heard of before. It's been great fun and we hope you will consider joining us as we continue to share food, fellowship, and learning. (Dates: 3/2, 3/9, and 3/16).

Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee will meet on Sunday, March 6th, 12 Noon, in the Roak Room, to plan our liturgy for the Sundays in the Easter Season. We will also meet on Sunday, April 24th, 12 Noon, to plan our liturgy for the Sundays after Trinity Sunday through the summer months. Anyone interested in being involved in crafting our Sunday liturgies welcome to join us. We will review the Scripture selections for the seasons as we consider creeds, confessions, Prayers of the People, opening and closing acclamations, and post communion prayers from our own denominational sources and from sources available globally. Please consider if this may be a way in which you might serve Gloria Dei. Lunch will be provided so please let the rector know if you plan to join us for this fun-filled, worship-filled, spirit-filled work.



Sunday School explores the Holy Eucharist

This winter and spring our Sunday School is exploring the why, what and when of our Holy Eucharist. How do we worship together?

The Word of God

Opening and the Collect of the Day

Lesson: Old Testament

The Psalm

Lesson: Letters or Acts

Lesson: Gospel The Sermon

The Creed, Affirmation of Faith

The Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin (sometimes)

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Blessing and Dismissal

Our children will be looking, listening, questioning, and creating during worship. You may see children finding the parts of our worship in our bulletin. You may see children drawing, writing and even taking photographs. We invite you to share with our children as they explore and share their experience of our Holy Eucharist.



Volume 6A and B of the Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania - The Wrangel Years is now available for purchase at www.old-swedes.org.

The Wrangel Years, 1759-1768 was a period of renewal and unprecedented growth for Gloria Dei Church, yet a time marked by clerical rivalry and bitter controversies.

At the center of it is Carl Magnus Wrangel, 1727 - 1786, Dean of the American Mission.

704 Pages









Donate to Gloria Dei Make a pledge payment Purchase books Make Amazon purchases



Now all these things can be done online at Gloria Dei's website! Just visit us as www.old-swedes.org and find out what else we're doing. Check out our Facebook page while you're there.



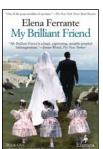
The Book Club at Gloria Dei

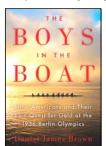
Here are our next books and meeting dates. The Book Club meets at 7 pm

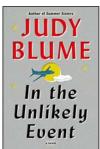
March 28, 2016 My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

April 25, 2016 Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

May 23, 2016 In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blum







Marilyn Johnson





March 17 & April 28 7:30 to 9:30 pm - Riverside Hall

From the Rector's Warden

Election time is fast approaching!

Not the Presidential election but Vestry elections. No debates or smear campaigns here.

Gloria Dei's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday May 1 2016, after our morning service. During this Annual Meeting we will discuss the work and workings of the church, with reports on our finances, our mission and up and coming events and activities. Mark your calendar and be sure to join us. This is also the time of year we elect new vestry members.

This is an open invitation to all qualified parishioners to run for vestry.

WE WANT YOU!

The Bylaws of Gloria Dei church state that vestry members must "be baptized and confirmed lay persons of the age of eighteen years and upwards, who shall have been worshipers in this church as their usual place of worship for at least one year prior to the date of the election and who shall appear by the books of the Corporation to have contributed towards the expenses of the Corporation, by payment in time, talent or treasure a sum of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)

To be considered for election to the vestry at the Annual Meeting a person must meet the qualifications stated above and be nominated to the Secretary of the vestry in writing by at least three (3) members, at least four (4) weeks prior to the election. This nomination must be signed by the person being nominated to be valid. It is acceptable for a person to nominate themselves. So don't be shy!

Nomination forms will be available in the church and in the parish office beginning on Sunday March 6, 2016. These nomination forms must be submitted to the Secretary of the vestry (Leigh Jenkins) no later than Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Public notice of the nominated members will be posted by the Secretary of the vestry on the bulletin boards inside the church and Riverside hall four (4) weeks, prior to election, beginning April 3, 2016.

The vestry of Gloria Dei is normally composed of twelve (12) individuals. Currently we have eleven (11) members. Four (4) members are normally elected each year for a three year term.

Now you may be saying to yourself what exactly is the function of the vestry? The vestry is a group of elected parishioners who administer the temporal affairs of the parish and serve as a council of advice to the rector. The vestry is the leadership body of the church and its voice. The vestry makes decisions with the best interest of the church in mind.

Most months the vestry meets for about two hours on the third Thursday of the month.

Please consider becoming a member of this important church body.

During our Annual Meeting we will also be electing three (3) Deanery and Convention delegates and one (1) alternate. All are two (2) year terms. Current delegates are eligible to be elected.

Mark your calendars, Sunday May 1, 2016 and join us for our Annual Meeting!

Carol Jenkins

Easter Flowers - In Memory, In Thanksgiving

If you wish to make an offering to Gloria Dei this Easter, as a memorial or thanksgiving, please return the enclosed envelope with the information (names,

printed clearly) you would like to be printed in our Easter bulletins. In order to insure your information appears in our Easter bulletins we need to receive your envelope no later than Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Easter flowers are always planted in the churchyard the week after Easter so know that your contribution will also add to the ongoing beauty of this special place through the Spring and Summer months.





Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House

We are once again going to be Guest Chefs at Ronald McDonald House, on Sunday, April 3, 2016. We will leave for RMH at 3:30PM from the church parking lot and will return by 7:30PM. We will be planning the menu after church on Sunday, March 20, 2016. If you cannot go with us but would like to contribute to the meal, or if you would like to join us and need a ride, please let us know. You may call the church office or see lov about participating.

Calendar

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary		
	Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm		
	Yoga - 7:15-8:15pm, Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class		
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Yoga - 9:00am-10:00am, Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class		
	Qigong - 10:30-11:30am, Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class		
Mar. 2, 9, 16	Lenten Study - 6:00-8:00pm, Riverside Hall		
Mar. 6	Liturgy Committee Meeting - Roak Room - Noon		
Mar. 13	Brunch -11:30am-2:30pm, Riverside Hall		
	Swedish Service - 4:00pm with reception to follow		
Mar. 14	HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm		
Mar. 15	Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm - Roak Room		
Mar. 17	Swedish Colonial Society Meeting - Riverside Hall - 10:00am		
	Jazz n Joe - 7:30pm Riverside Hall		
Mar. 20	Palm Sunday, Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Reading, Holy Communion Rite II 10:am Sanctuary		
Mar. 23	Passover Seder, 6:00pm, Riverside Hall		
Mar. 24	Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Holy Communion, stripping of the alter, 7:00pm		
Mar. 25	Easter Egg Preparation , 10:00am Riverside Hall		
	Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from the reserved sacrament, 7:00pm		
Mar. 27	Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Baptism, 6:00am		
	Holy Communion, Baptism, 10:00am		
	Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15am		
Mar. 28	Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall		

Calendar

Jesus Christ Super Star Show Apr. 1 Show Only 7:30pm, \$12.00 per ticket, advance sale, \$15.00 at the door Iesus Christ Super Star Show and Dinner - Reservation Apr. 2 Required for Dinner - Dinner 6:00pm, \$30.00 includes 1 dinner and 1 show ticket. Show Only 7:30pm, \$12.00 per ticket advance sale, \$15.00 at the door. Tickets for show and dinner can be purchased with credit card online Evensong - 6:30pm - Sanctuary Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26 Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Yoga - 7:15-8:15pm, Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class Yoga - 9:00am-10:00am, Riverside Hall, drop in class, Apr. 6, 13, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class 20, 27 Qigong - 10:30-11:30am, Riverside Hall, drop in class, all levels welcome, \$10.00 a class Swedish Service - 4:00pm with reception to follow Apr. 10 HGDPC Meeting - Roak Room - 5:30pm Apr. 11 Apr. 21 Vestry Meeting - 7:00pm - Roak Room Liturgy Committee Meeting, Roak Room, 12:00pm Apr. 24 Toe- 7:30pm Riverside Hall Apr. 25 Book Club - 7:00PM - Riverside Hall Apr. 28 Boys in the Boat ←

by Daniel James Brown

The Lectionary for March

March 6th, Fourth Sunday in Lent

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

March 13th, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new things you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8

March 20, Palm Sunday

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14~23:56

March 24th, Maundy Thursday

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1,10-17 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17,31b-35

March 25th, Good Friday

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:13~53:12 Psalm 22:1-11 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1~19:42

March 27th, Easter Vigil

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Romans 6:3-11 Luke 24:1-12

March 27th, Easter Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12

The Lectionary for April

April 3rd, Second Sunday of Easter

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

April 10th, Third Sunday of Easter

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelations 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

April 17th, Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

(continued on next page)

April 24th, Fifth Sunday of Easter

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 20	Palm Sunday	Liturgy of the Palm;, Passion Reading, Holy Communion Rite II	10:00am
March 22	Tues. in Holy Week	Evensong	6:30pm
March 23	Wed. in Holy Week	Passover Seder	6:00pm
March 24	Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Holy Communion, stripping of the altar	7:00pm
March 25	Good Friday	Easter Egg Preparation Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from the reserved sacrament	10:00am 7:00pm
March 27	Easter Day	Easter Vigil, Holy Communion, Baptism Holy Communion, Baptism Easter Egg Hunt	6:00am 10:00am 11:15am

All Are Welcome, All The Time

From the records of Gloria Dei

March 6, 1853 - Confirmation - Church was so crowded that people had to leave before the service started

March 8, 1919 - Ida V MacFarland died. She taught Sunday School from 1863 - 1919.

March 19, 1782 - First Thanksgiving Day - proclaimed by President John Hanson.

March 23, 1823 - Ann Eliza Anderson died. The cause of death was a fall from sitting on the adult privy seat. She was 5 years old.

March 31, 1878 - John & Martha Neil had two sets of twins baptized. John Henry and Eleanor Peno born June 6, 1876. Margaret Dole & Jeremiah Francis born February 1, 1878.

APRIL 15, 1840 - 30 people were confirmed by Bishop Onderdonk. That was the second confirmation of the season.

APRIL 17, 1828 - John Morgan died ag. about 20 native of Wales, arrived here months ago. He lived with Mr. Berry, below Southwark going home late, he tried to get over a fence of pales; but the skirts of his coat fastened on them. so that he hung down & was choked. \$7.50

Remarkable Occurrences

MARCH 30, 1807 - A decent couple came. The bride, the intended husband, and her brother affirmed that her first husband a sailor had died on a voyage to Ile of France, two years ago. But, as all the three had an interest in the affair, I could not rely on their testimony alone, and refused. She was 26 yrs. of age, by her account, and appeared so. Two other men, and one woman came with them, but had no knowledge about her first husband.

MARCH 30, 1808 - Early p.m. a man of good appearance and of middle age, came with a daughter of a gentleman well known to me. Gentleman now holding a civil office and resident in Philadelphia. She appeared to be above 21 by some years. Her name and relation was freely acknowledged, and his consent was also by her affirmed, but not so clearly. On my refusal until I had seen him, they declined, saying that they would try to get married this ev. as they were going to leave town immediately afterwards.

MARCH 21, 1809 - A middle aged woman asked if I could marry a couple, and antedated the certificate for 11 yrs. They had been married by some minister who was dead, and had left no records, and a child of theirs was dead. The woman feared that in case of her demise the property come by her, would

be carried from the husband by her brother. Answer Anted. is imposs. Advice to be qualified before a magistrate that they were married - If they really had not been to get married immediately. She said that in the country where they lived, probably was no minister, and that besides, they in that case; wished to be married here in order to conceal the time.

APRIL 12, 1800 - An Irishman about 30 years, came with a young girl, in appearance 17, but as he said 20. They alleged that they had just come from Baltimore, but not in the same stage; that he had left her, but she had followed him, being pregnant by him and near her time. The appearance did not show so much, and how fat it went, her dress concealed. The fellow was ragged and smell much of the stable. Her name was that of a saddler and harness maker in this city; but she denied any relation to him. He went away after vain solicitation, saying that he must try to get married this night, to save the girl's reputation.

APRIL 13, 1800 - A young couple came; both being hired to the Swedish Consul; his father an Englishman; being hired to a gentleman in the city had not given his consent, as I required, because this son was a minor therefore, they were refused. About this time a young man in trade, of good connections applied three times with earnest solicitations, and offers of reward for being married with antedating the certificate; in order to conceal his premature connection with the bride, for whose reputation he expressed great anxiety. I refused with ample demonstration of the necessity for official veracity, and the pernicious consequences of falsifying records. He was under great perplexity how to act. I strongly advised him by no means to delay the performance of the nuptial rites, though this misstep might not be concealable. He did not repeat the request. He offered a generous fee for my trouble, but I declined acceptance of it; being always happy to give salutary advice.

APRIL 24, 1800 - A young Negro not free, refused

APRIL 11, 1808 - A man of 23, and a widow of 25 app. Her brother, whom I know in some respects, and a young girl of 15, who said she knew neither of the pair, came as evid. Her former husband was a sailor, and had died in the East Indies by her acct. The bridegroom and brother affirmed the same, but without expressing how they did know it. I refused. One motive was, that no previous notice was given; another stronger, that she said that she had come from her father's house in Jersey, 6 miles this day, which was very stormy with rain. The many examples of bigamy, indeed polygamy make all possible caution requisite.

Sexton Sideshow 2016

Greetings to all Riverside readers from your Sextons here at Gloria Dei! First off let me say that 2015 was a very successful year for the Sexton Sideshow.

We hosted: Four Sunday Brunches, Produced 2 nights of Jesus Christ Superstar, Sixth year of Memorial Dei Family Picnic, Make Music Philly - 3 years, Seventh Year of Boo-ga-loo with 4 bands and neighborhood trick or treating, Hootenanny - first year, Second Year of Honky Tonk presenting 18 Bands and raised money for the I'll Be Me Alzheimer's Fund

Sexton Sideshow raised \$10,041.94 by these live, local, community music events. Thanks go out to our Sexton Sidekicks for their generous donation of time and talent. Huge thank you to all who shared their hard earned treasure in support of the Sexton Sideshow and ultimately Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')!!

We will continue in 2016 our mission of building community here at the Old Swedes' Church and raising much needed funds that help us function on a day to day basis. By the time you read this we will have had our February Valentines Pancake Brunch, but stay tuned because another one is coming Sunday March 13th. Future brunches will appear on our website.

We will present our Jesus Christ Superstar: One Man Twelve Guitars, show on Friday April 1st and Sat April 2nd. There will be a Last Supper Meal option on Friday April 1st. Reservations for the shows and supper can be made online by visiting the Old-Swedes' website. Blue Bond Music School has a kids show booked for Sunday April 3rd. Our Big Event for the year is our Monday May 30th Memorial Dei Family Picnic. Look for many new artists to be part of this year's lineup. June 21st is the Make Music Philly. We are hosting for the 4th year in a row! Anything can happen in July, August, and Sept so stay tuned to old-swedes.org or like Sexton Sideshow on Facebook and Gloria Dei Old Swedes' Episcopal Church for updated information.

If you are marking your calendars October 29th is our **Graveyard Boo-galoo**! December 16th and 17th is our **Hootenanny** and **Honky Tonk**!

So there you go...put some dates on your calendar people. We are very busy here in Queen Village not only with these events, but the every day job of being Sextons, plus church events like the **Flea Market** & **Lucia Fest**, and of course the twice weekly services of the church at 10:00am Sunday and 6:30pm Tuesdays. I hope you will find time to join us.

Peace & Love,

Jim & Paula Minacci

If you are interested in supporting Sexton Sideshow in the future or NOW, make checks payable to Gloria Dei with Sexton Sideshow in memo box.



Welcome the Newest Members Baptized on February 7, 2016 Theodore Martin Konowal

In Remembrance of:

Charlene Wanda (Bowers) Cassidy

December 30th, 2015

Gladys White

January 1, 2016

Annamarie (Franks) Marinelli

January 22, 2016

David Bradford Roak

January 27, 2016

Nancy Fitzmaurice

January 22, 2016

Dorothy P (King) Masusock

January 26th, 2016

Memorial Cards:

Charlene Wanda (Bowers) Cassidy

By: James & Cathy Ufheil, Vicki Cusack, Thomas Day, Rita West, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Woehr, Emily Baron, Benjamin & Ken Crist, Suzanne & Robert DiBernardino, Joseph McEwing, Delores Kromchad, Lisa Woodman, Margret Groh



Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM

Office Hours Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-2:30

CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector The Rev. Paul Harris, Assoc. Clergy

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director Vicki Cusack, Parish Administrator Paula & James Minacci, Sextons Mark Roberts, Treasurer

VESTRY

Barbara Chilcott
Jill Duink, Accounting Warden
Kimberly Goodwin
Re Henning
Carol Jenkins, Rector's Warden
Leigh Jenkins, Secretary
Barbara Potts
Mark Roberts
Nils van Ammers
Rita West
Jeanette Woehr

STANDING NOTICES

Weddings

Weddings at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church must be scheduled with the clergy at least three months in advance. All weddings in the church will be governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Book of Common Prayer. Pre-marital counseling is a prerequisite. No weddings will be conducted during Lent.

Funerals

When death occurs a family member is asked to contact the clergy so that timely arrangements for a funeral may be made. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the church. It is also appropriate that funeral arrangements be made in advance and kept in a file in the church office. Burial plots are available for members of the parish in the church's cemetery. Consult the church office for costs and details.

Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. Baptism is normally celebrated on one of the four appropriate feast days designated in the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/10/16), The Great Vigil of Easter (3/27/16), Pentecost (5/15/16); and All Saints Sunday (11/6/16). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.