



Churches in the Alexandria Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia join Episcopal churches everywhere in celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday Oct. 6.

The Episcopal Church celebrates the Feast Day of Francis of Assisi, an Italian friar, beloved saint, and one of the most venerated individuals in Christian history. He founded the Franciscan Order for men and the Order of Saint Clare for women, and he is also widely known for his love of nature and animals.

Perhaps the most famous prayer attributed to St. Francis is: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen. This celebration includes the Blessing of the Pets (or animals) at these Alexandria Episcopal Churches in the City of Alexandria, as noted.

**Christ Church Alexandria**, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Sunday, October 6, 3:00 p.m., Church yard

“Our annual Blessing of the Animals for animals of all shapes and sizes will be held in the churchyard at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, 2019. There will also be a special prayer for beloved pets who have died. Bring their retired collars, leashes, and photos for a blessing.”

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church**, 1608 Russell Road Alexandria, VA 22301

Sunday, October 6 | 10:30 AM “In honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, Emmanuel will celebrate all creatures, great and small! All well-behaved pets are welcome in church and afterwards for the official outdoor "Blessing of the Animals" on the church steps. If your cat or dog is unable to attend or you have a more unusual species: hamster, hermit crab, snake, etc. bring a photo. We'll post photos on a "blessing board" in the narthex. The “Prayers of the People” will include prayers for beloved departed pets who now romp in the kingdom of heaven. If you have a pet's name you would like to share, email Karen in the church office. For younger ones, who may not have a pet, the stuffed animal variety is also welcome! We’re also collecting much needed items for the Alexandria Animal Shelter. Please bring unopened cat food, dog food, treats, as well as, blankets and toys. Family, friends and neighbors are all welcome!”

**Grace Alexandria**

3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

Sunday, October 6, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. People with pets may gather in the parking lot at 4 p.m.

Join us in the Grace Church St. Francis Garden at 4 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors (and all your furry friends) for this special service of blessing.

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**Church of the Resurrection**

Sunday, October 6, 2:30 pm at Fort Ward Park  
4301 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria

**Immanuel Church on the Hill with Church of the Resurrection**

Sunday, October 6, 5:00 pm  
Chapel Gardens, Virginia Theological Seminary  
3737 Seminary Rd, Alexandria

“In what has become a favorite autumn tradition, we gather near the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, in remembrance of his love of all creatures, to bless the animals who bring us joy. Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and Church of the Resurrection will offer this special service on Sunday, October 6, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Seminary Chapel Garden of Virginia Theological Seminary. All creatures are welcome to receive the blessing (in baskets, containers, or on leashes as needed to protect them from other nearby animals).”

**Episcopal Church of St. Clement**

1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302  
4:30 p.m. in the church yard

**Meade Memorial Church**

322 St. Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
For information contact the church at (703) 549-1334.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
St. Paul's annual Blessing of the Pets celebration was held in conjunction with other events at the parish on Sunday, September 29, at 4 p.m.