

Sunday, December 22nd

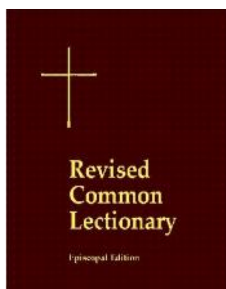
Fourth Sunday of Advent



**“Yet in Thy dark streets
shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the
years are met in Thee
tonight.”**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

8:00 AM	
CHALICE	CARLA BOYER
2ND CHALICE	
ACOLYTE	ALLISON MCLEAN
O.T. LECTOR	CARLA BOYER
N.T. LECTOR	JANET CUSACK
INTERCESSOR	PATTY SEEKAMP
USHER	PATTY SEEKAMP
USHER	BOB SEEKAMP
10:30 AM	
SUBDEACON	RICK SCOTT
M.C.	PHYLLIS GUARDINO
THURIFER	CLAIRE NEWQUIST
CRUCIFER	DAVID BROKAW
ACOLYTE 1	MARLENE PRESLEY
ACOLYTE 2	TORRY GUARDINO
O.T. LECTOR	MICHAEL SAUNDERS
N.T. LECTOR	TORRY GUARDINO
INTERCESSOR	MARK STRUNSKY
USHER	SUE SCOTT
USHER	



NEW WEBSITE FOR LECTIONARY READINGS

THE WEBPAGE IS IN CALENDAR FORM—JUST CLICK ON THE DATE AND YOU WILL SEE THE READINGS FOR THAT DAY.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2019.html>

Christmas Eve		Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	
December 24, 2017		December 24, 2017		December 25, 2017	
<p align="center">Family Service and Pageant</p> <p align="center">4:00 PM</p>		<p align="center">Choral Prelude</p> <p align="center">10:30</p> <p align="center">Midnight Mass</p> <p align="center">11:00PM</p>		9:00 AM	
				Chalice	Janet Cusack
				2nd Chalice	Carla Boyer
				Acolyte	Kathy Hamilton
				O.T. Lector	Janet Cusack
				N.T. Lector	Carla Boyer
				Intercessor	Allison McLean
				Usher	Allison McLean
				Usher	Gail Lichwick
Subdeacon	Phyllis Guardino	Subdeacon	Rick Scott	<p align="center"><i>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.</i></p>	
M.C.	Torry Guardino	M.C.	Claire Newquist		
Thurifer	Lizzy Ortega	Thurifer	David Brokaw		
Crucifer	Daysha White	Crucifer	Eileen Barrett		
Acolyte 1	David White	Acolyte 1	Marlene Presley		
Acolyte 2	Lenora Vaughan	Acolyte 2	Rhonda Sarrazin		
O.T. Lector	Grace Gutierrez	O.T. Lector	Rick Scott		
N.T. Lector	Rowan Bloomer	N.T. Lector	Lourdes Cruz		
Intercessor	Kate Gutierrez	Intercessor	Joseph Barrett		
Usher	John Cusack	Usher	Joseph Barrett		
Usher	Volunteer	Usher	Lisa DeNisco		

Grace Episcopal Church Schedule of Christmas Services



Christmas Eve

4:00 pm: Family Mass and Children's Pageant

10:30 pm: Choral Prelude followed by Midnight Mass at 11:00 PM

Christmas Day

9:00 am: The Feast of the Nativity, Sung Mass Rite I

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 19

6:30 PM: Healing Mass
7:30 PM: Monthly Vestry Meeting—all are welcome!

Sunday, December 22

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:15 AM: Adult Education Advent Series
10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite II

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm: Family Mass and Children's Pageant
10:30 pm: Choral Prelude followed by Midnight Mass at 11:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25

9:00 am: The Feast of the Nativity, Sung Mass Rite I

Sunday, December 29

8:00 AM: Morning Prayer Rite I
10:30 AM: Morning Prayer Rite II
(Fr. Victor and Rhonda will be taking a few days off)

January 2 and January 3

Office closed.

Sunday, January 5

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite II
3:00 PM: EpiscoBuild Choral Fundraiser at Grace Church

Wednesday, January 8

10:00 AM: Healing Mass



Grace
Church
Calendar



ShopRite Grocery Gift Certificates are available for sale EVERY Sunday after each service. Grace Church receives 5% on the sale of the

cards from ShopRite, while you purchase the cards at face value! Shoprite gift cards can make shopping for the family easy. Our ongoing fundraiser of Shoprite gift cards helps you prepare your holiday meals while helping Grace Church. Please keep us in mind when preparing your shopping lists!

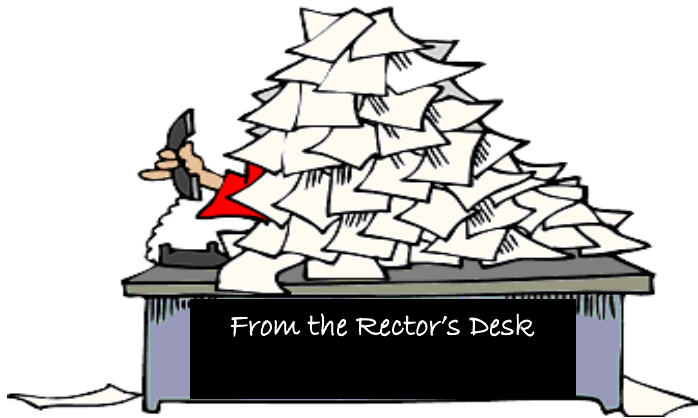
We are happy and pleased to announce that we can accept credit card purchases for the ShopRite gift cards. So, if you use a rewards credit card you can now accumulate points while supporting Grace Church!

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12-27-2013

SHEPHOARD



Our diocese will mark the feast day of Blessed Absalom Jones with a festival Eucharistic celebration to be held Saturday, February 8, 2020 at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine. All congregations are not only invited to attend but are encouraged to participate in the celebration.

The Episcopal Church commemorates Jones' life on February 13. The entry for that day in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* gives us this very brief recounting of his life.

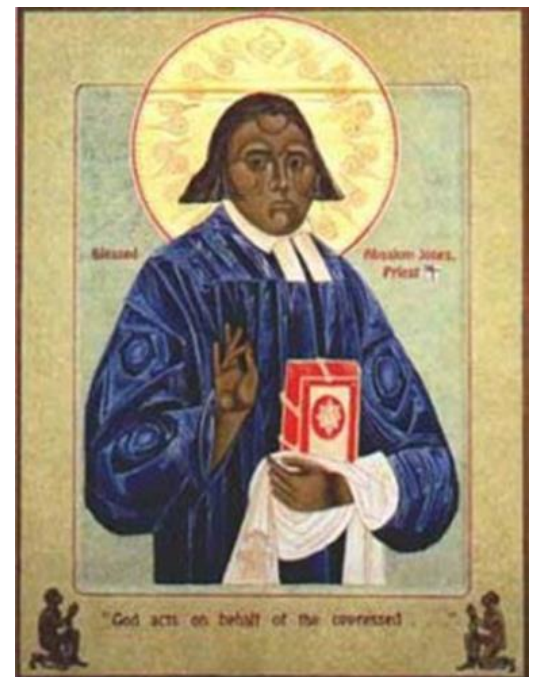
Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave, and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1, that they be received as an organized body; 2, that they have control over their local affairs; 3, that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.



Are any of you interested in being part of a delegation from Grace Church to take part in the celebration? Please contact the church office and let me know of your interest by January 1 and I will register us for the events as a group. There is a way you would like to participate, e.g., as part of the festival choir, an usher or as an acolyte? Please let me know and I will include that in our registration. [Click here for more information.](#)



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
NEW YORK

The Rev. Victor Sarrazin
Grace Episcopal Church
58 North Street
Middletown, NY 10940

December 9, 2019

Dear Victor+,

First and foremost, *thank you* and the wonderful people of Grace Church, Middletown, for the warm and generous welcome you all shared with me yesterday: the Second Sunday of Advent. From start to finish I felt anticipated, engaged, and allowed to be a part of the larger community. People were very warm on a cold day – and I'm grateful. Thank you!

The Vestry Meeting went well, with good attendance and comprehensive participation. It is clear that the congregation works to be inclusive, welcoming, inviting, and non-judgmental – and it shows. You are blessed to have such gifted leadership serving with you. The Vestry is faithful, hard-working, and committed.

The service was appropriately joyful. The music and choir were terrific, and I hope you will pass on my appreciation to them. The building itself is warm and intimate. Altar Guild, Lay Ministers, Ushers, Acolytes and Readers all take pride in their various roles and are well trained.

The feast following the service was just that: a feast! The conversation, warmth, and love palpable in the parish hall was refreshing to take in. Thanks go to all who contributed.

Victor+, you are a consummate priest: pastoral, organized, knowledgeable, and most and best of all, loving. You love the people and they love you right back. It is an honor to serve with you in this Diocese of New York, and I look forward to more in the future.

Wishing you every blessing for Advent and Christmas -

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Thinking about signing up for Coffee Hour? Go online to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4da5a722a4f58-coffee> and click on the picture to sign up for an upcoming Coffee Hour. You may sign up from home or, if you don't have access to the Internet, Call Chris at 342-3561, or Patty at 386-5622 and we'll find you a Coffee Hour that's available.

Remember, we have some coffee hours in which we get by with cookies. When you see something yummy on sale, call one of us to see what Sunday is available. Or, find a fellow parishioner and do a Coffee Hour together.

Donations of funds or supplies are always accepted gladly, and if you don't feel up to the task of hosting a coffee hour, you may make a monetary donation and we will happily shop for you.

Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the Parish House Boardroom on December 19th starting at 7:30 pm.
All are invited to attend!

To read the highlights of the October 17, 2019 Vestry meeting, click here.

To read the highlights of the September 19, 2019 Vestry meeting, click here.

Try out our audio mixer to listen to the 10:30 Sunday Mass live. No matter where you are you can join us in worship.



Just click here!

Your Grace Church Vestry

Wardens

Joseph Barrett

Clerk of the Vestry

Bill Gunn

Claire Newquist

Treasurer

Janet Cusack

Vestry

Lourdes Cruz

Joseph Gayton

John Cusack

Allison McLean

Anne Caldwell

Connie Herm

Sue Scott

Pepe Gutierrez