


July 12, 2020 Phone 845 343 6101 FAX 845 343 8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
email [secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com)

*Sunday, July 12th*

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

**In accordance with direction from Bishop Dietsche, Grace Church will be slowly phasing in public worship. During this interim period, we will continue to live stream our 10:30 worship service both by audio stream only from our website and with video from Facebook. To join us for Mass at Grace, please call Father Victor. If you'd prefer to continue to worship virtually, please use the links below.**



**“God’s power working in us transforms unjust systems that keep us from living into our full power and potential as God’s children. It’s not might or power, but God’s Holy Spirit working in God’s people. We don’t need more power. We need more Holy Spirit.”**

**~Stephanie Spellers**



Use our audio mixer to listen to the 10:30 Sunday Mass live.

**[Just Click Here!](#)**

To watch on Facebook **[Click Here!](#)**



To follow the Mass you can **[Click Here](#)** for the Sunday Prayer Bulletin with readings.



Revised  
Common  
Lectionary

Episcopal Edition

**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/Calendar2020.html>**

# Upcoming Events

Sunday July 12th

10:30 AM Mass in Church and Online

(a link for this week's prayer bulletin with readings can be found on the first page of this Epistle)

Thursday July 16th

7:30 PM Monthly Vestry Meeting via Zoom. The meeting is open to all parishioners. If you would like a Zoom link to "attend" please contact Fr. Vic, Claire or Joe.

## Grace Church Bulletin Board

**Meditation for the Wednesday of  
the Sixth Week after Pentecost  
by the Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool  
Bishop Assistant of New York.**

**[Click Here To Watch](#)**

If, during this current emergency, you have any issues or concerns or know of another parishioner with issues or concerns please contact: (click on a name to email that person)

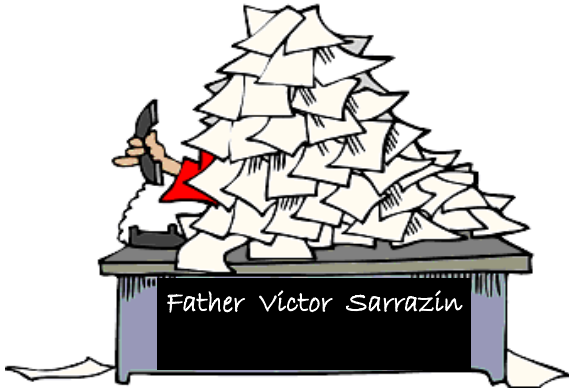
[Fr. Victor](#)                      845-343-7986

[Claire](#)                              845-344-7885

[Joe](#)                                      845-386-2555

If you would like to add somebody to the Prayers For The People, please email Claire at [cnewquist@frontiernet.net](mailto:cnewquist@frontiernet.net)

## From The Rector's "Other" Desk



My dear Friends,

Thank you for your support and cooperation with our efforts to reopen last Sunday. It went very smoothly. People were very cooperative and good to one another as we negotiated this new (and at times awkward) reality of gathering as a faith community.

We will have Eucharist next Sunday, July 12 at 10:30 AM, with the same procedures as last Sunday. Call me at 845 – 343 – 7986 to reserve a spot in church. There will be one difference from last week; we will use Rite I from the Book of Common Prayer. Until we can have two services on a Sunday, we will alternate back-and-forth between Rite I and Rite II.

I am planning to make one change to our Sunday routines beginning on July 26. We will move the time of our Eucharist to 9:30 AM. Please mark your calendars and pass the word.

As has been repeated many times:  
wear a mask, remain 6 feet apart and  
wash/sanitize your hands frequently.

May you be blessed with peace and  
wellness

Fr. Victor



On Sunday, Grace Church opened for  
in-person worship under social  
distancing guidelines.

Photo by Patty Seekamp

### STAR LAKE EST. 1923 CAMP

## FREE CAMP IN A BOX

**AGES 7-12 YEARS**

VBS, ACTION BIBLE, DEVOTIONALS,  
GAMES, ARTS AND CRAFTS, PROGRAM  
ACTIVITIES AND STAR LAKE SWAG.

Register @  
[STARLAKEYOUTH CAMP.ORG](http://STARLAKEYOUTH CAMP.ORG)

#### CAMP DATES

Troop Week I	(Ages 7-9)	July 6 -10th
Troop Week II	(Ages 10-12)	July 13 -17th
Adventure Week I	(Ages 7-9)	July 20 -24th
Adventure Week II	(Ages 10-12)	July 27 - 31st
STEM Week I	(Ages 7-9)	Aug 3 -7th
STEM Week II	(Ages 10-12)	Aug 10-14th

On Line Connection With  
Star Lake Camp Counselor

THE SALVATION ARMY

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## Shelter from the Storm

It will come as no surprise to you that I've been watching a lot more TV lately being home more. The other day, I watched, for the second time at least, a movie called *St. Vincent*, starring Bill Murray. This isn't your typical feel-good movie; it is filled with dark humor and coarse dialogue. It is a story of hardship and obstacles, which Vincent (Bill Murray) overcomes, in his own unique way, with the help of a young boy.

To borrow some words from Roger Ebert, Vince "is a hard-drinking, hard-living, hard-luck New Yorker. He lives alone; sleeps with, well, never mind who; and drinks up whatever money he doesn't lose gambling. His bank account is overdrawn, his health is failing and he has no friends that he doesn't pay." Oh wait, I forgot to mention he begins babysitting the young boy next door who recently moved in with his soon-to-be single mother to make some money. The story continues with young Oliver as Vincent's sidekick. While Vincent offers up advice to Oliver, eventually we come to realize that it is Oliver who seems to be teaching Vincent. Without giving away too much of the plot, Vincent's life continues to spiral downhill. But, it is Oliver who sees more beneath what's on Vincent's surface. It is this desire and ability to learn what made Vincent who he is and to show the world that there is good beneath that surface that leads to the story's climax, when Oliver nominates Vincent for sainthood as part of a school project called "The saints around us." This all leads to a turning point for Vince, now St. Vincent of Brooklyn, and he turns a corner of his life. He comes out of the darkness of his old life and enters a new normal. He now has a few people around him who genuinely care about him and he is no longer alone. The movie concludes with Vince singing (terribly) along with Bob Dylan's song "Shelter From the Storm."

Right about now, I can hear Lisa DeNisco saying "OK pal, land the plane." So, I will. I see this movie as a metaphor of sorts about all that we are going through both now and for the past four months. We've seen our lives changed in ways that we probably aren't happy about. Perhaps we haven't seen the grandchildren or our parents in months. Children have been separated from their friends. No school, no church, no social events. Sadly, sickness and death have been a bit more present than normal in our lives. Places where we might go to "seek shelter from the storm," family, friends, church, are not there in the way that they had been. Yet, there is goodness and there is hope. We just need to look for it, the way that Oliver looked below the surface and truly saw Vincent. For instance, people have stepped up to help those who are much in need. Our own Guild of St. Margaret has begun a food pantry. Volunteers from the Grace Church community and from the Middletown Community have donated their time and labor, an example of "the saints around us." We have found new ways to stay connected with family and friends through technology with virtual brunches, virtual worship, and virtual playdates with the grandchildren, an example of "the saints around us." When we do venture from home for essential items, wearing a mask and socially distancing to keep others safe, again, "the saints around us." When we look below the surface of what is wrong around us, we can see the good and see how we can be part of that good. If we look below the surface, if we do not make rash judgements about people without getting to know them, we can see the good that lives outside of public view. And, finally, St. Vincent offers hope of a light at the end of the tunnel. As we slowly find our community opening up from these months of being shut down, we realize that we are coming out of the darkness into a new life, albeit with a new normal. This new normal may not be so bad once we adjust to it. What we find is that even though we are separated by distance, whether it be social or geographical or by a simple mask, we are still joined emotionally and spiritually. Love and kindness will get us through this. "She walked up to me so gracefully and took my crown of thorns, 'Come in,' she said, 'I'll give ya shelter from the storm.'" ~Joe



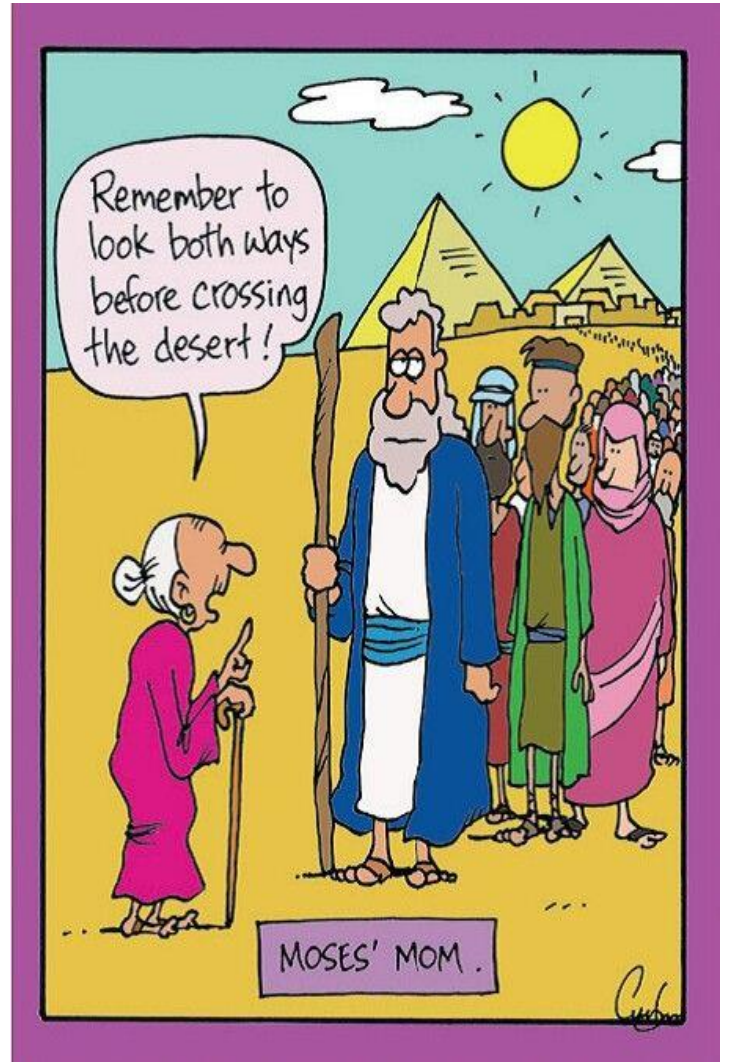
**Grace  
Church  
Calendar**

**Vestry News**

The next Vestry meeting will be held via Zoom on July 16th starting at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend! If you'd like a Zoom link to "attend" the meeting, please contact Fr. Vic, Claire or Joe.

To read the highlights of the May 21, 2020 Vestry meeting, click here.

To read the highlights of the April 16, 2020 Vestry meeting, click here.



**Your Grace Church Vestry**

**Wardens**

**Joseph Barrett**

**Clerk of the Vestry**

**Bill Gunn**

**Claire Newquist**

**Treasurer**

**Allison McLean**

**Vestry**

**Lourdes Cruz**

**Joseph Gayton**

**John Cusack**

**Allison McLean**

**Anne Caldwell**

**Connie Herm**

**Sue Scott**

**Pepe Gutierrez**