

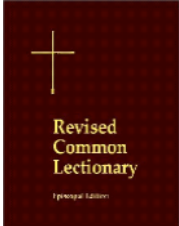
December 8, 2024 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
 email [secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com)



**“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”**  
 ~Pope Benedict XVI

## *Sunday December 8th* Second Sunday of Advent (Rite I)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Janet Cusack
MC/2nd Chalice	Marlene Presley
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Allison McLean
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Lourdes Cruz
NT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
Intercessor	Patty Seekamp
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Mark Strunsky Sue Scott
Use our audio mixer to listen to the 9:30 Sunday Mass live. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	
To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	
For the Sunday prayer bulletin. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	



### 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/Calendar2024.html>

## Upcoming Events

Sunday December 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I) A link to the prayer bulletin can be found on the first page of this newsletter.
Wednesday December 11th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday December 15th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Wednesday December 18th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday December 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Tuesday December 24th	Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Musical Prelude 4:30 PM Holy Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday December 25th	Christmas Day 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

## The Photography Corner



I found this small cemetery behind the Parish Church of Saint Egidus, St Gilgen, Austria.

I would like to thank everybody who have shared photographs with us. I could always use a few more if you'd like to send some.

~Joe

## Repair Cafe

On Saturday, December 21, from 10 to 1, the Friends of the Middletown Thrall Library will hold their next Repair Cafe in the Library Community Room.

Repair Cafes are meeting places where neighbors, aka "Repair Coaches", help neighbors fix lamps and small appliances, mend clothing, sharpen knives and scissors, etc.



**On Saturday, December 21st, at 3PM, there will be a Celebration of Life for Marg Ostergaard at Grace Church.**



## **Christmas Flowers**

The Holiday music is playing non stop in the Mall, our downtown is festive with wreaths on the street lights and the Middletown Tree has been lit. Christmas lights are everywhere in our neighborhoods. I guess that Christmas must be coming! But first comes Advent; Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of the Christ child.

For us its the time of preparing ourselves, but also our homes and our gifts and all of the trappings of the season. It is also time for us to do some planning for for decorating the church for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, please use the envelopes in the pews. Make certain that you put your name, the name of those you are remembering and your check or cash in the envelopes and put them in the offering plate or drop them by the office by Friday December 20th. This will give us enough time to put the Christmas Flower bulletin together for our services on the 24th and 25th. Any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the parish office at 845-343-6101. ~Claire



**ShopRite Grocery Gift Cards 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! To purchase gift cards, please see either Eileen or Claire.**

## **Mystic Poets Society**

**This week's poem is sent to us by Patty Seekamp who recently read Desiderata at Poetry Night at the Old Otisville Church. Thanks Patty!**

**If you have a poem or reflection that you would consider sharing with your fellow parishioners, please send it to me. Thank you, Joe.**

### **Desiderata**

**by Max Ehrmann ©1927**

**Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.**

**Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.**

**Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.**

**Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.**

**Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.**

**Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.**

**Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.**

**Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.**

**Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.**

**And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.**

# The Warwick Valley Chorale

## 84th Annual Holiday Concert

*Antonio Vivaldi*



# Gloria!



Ron DeFesi, Director  
Gail Johnson, accompanist

Sunday Dec. 8, 2024 at 3:00 PM  
Goshen Christian Reformed Church, 2440 Route 17A  
Goshen NY 10924

Friday Dec. 13 at 7:00 PM  
Grace Episcopal Church, 58 North Street  
Middletown NY 10940

Sunday Dec. 15 at 3:00 PM  
St. Stephen RC Church, 75 Sanfordville Road  
Warwick NY 10990

As always, admission is **FREE** - Donations gratefully accepted



[Grace Calendar](#)

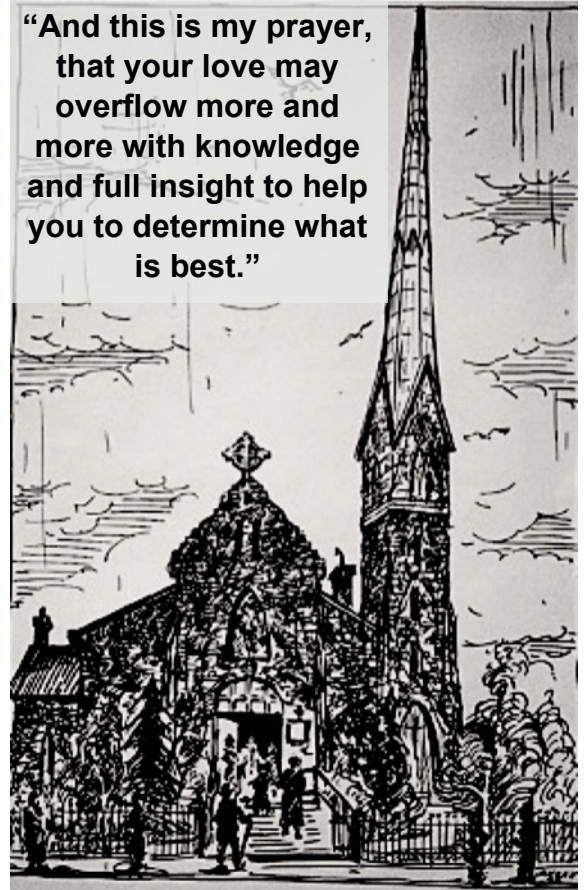
### Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday December 15th starting at 11:15 AM.  
All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the August 18, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the September 15, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best.”



GRACE CHURCH 1948

## Your Grace Church Vestry.

### Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

### *Clerk of the Vestry:*

Kathleen Hamilton

### *Treasurer:*

Allison McLean

### Vestry:

Lorraine Witkowski

Anne Caldwell

Barbara Chumard

Michelle Tubbs

William Gunn

Lenora Vaughan

Mark Strunsky

Eileen Bloomer

Torry Guardino