

January 12, 2025 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)

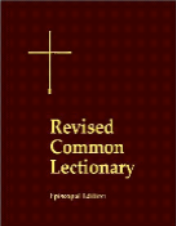


**"Winter is the time for comfort,  
 for good food and warmth, for  
 the touch of a friendly hand and  
 for a talk beside the fire: it is the  
 time for home."  
 ~Edith Sitwell**

## Sunday January 12th

First Sunday After The Epiphany (Rite II)

Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
MC/2nd Chalice	Phyllis Guardino
Thurifer	Claire Newquist
Crucifer	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	Lenora Vaughan
OT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
NT Lector	Lourdes Cruz
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
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/Calendar2025.html>

## Upcoming Events

<b>Sunday January 12th</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)</b> <b>Baby Shower for Morgan Spisso to follow mass</b>
<b>Wednesday January 15th</b>	<b>10:00 AM Healing Mass</b>
<b>Sunday January 19th</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)</b> <b>11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting</b>
<b>Monday January 20th</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office closed</b>
<b>Wednesday January 22nd</b>	<b>10:00 Healing Mass</b>
<b>Sunday January 26th</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)</b>
<b>Wednesday January 29th</b>	<b>10:00 Healing Mass</b>

## From the Rector's Desk



My dear friends at Grace,

On Monday, March 14, 2022, Bishop Andy Dietsche wrote to all of us in the Diocese of New York authorizing a post pandemic return to the common cup for Holy Communion. Since that time we have maintained several (common sense) practices for keeping our sharing of Holy Communion as safe and sanitary as possible. Now seems to be a good time for us to review and update those practices.

I use hand sanitizer before I approach the altar at the offertory time, as do the Acolytes.

When it is time, the Eucharistic Ministers sanitize their hands as they come forward to receive Communion. Also, as the ushers invite the congregation to Communion, they will make hand sanitizer available to each person, I encourage you to continue using it.

When it is your turn to receive communion, I will place the host in your hand. From there you have three options when it is your turn to receive the cup. First, you can consume your host immediately after I give it to you and then sip from the cup when it is offered to you. Second, you can hold on to your host and dip it for yourself into the wine and consume the bread and wine together. Third, you can choose not to receive from the cup whatsoever. There is never an obligation to receive communion in both kinds, with the one exception being the priest who is leading worship.

In the first post-COVID instructions, when a person wished to receive the wine by intinction (that is the host being dipped into the wine) the Eucharistic Minister would take the host from your hand, dip it into the wine and then place it on your tongue. This is not exactly a pleasant practice for either party, or the most sanitary. It seems prudent for us to drop this practice now, and move to the simpler practice of each of you dipping your own host into the wine.

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Vic

## The Photography Corner



This photograph of Stonehenge was taken last year during a visit to England.

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

Dear Grace Church Friends -

I was delighted to read the article about my dad, Stan Sayer, in the Epistle. Dad struggled with PTSD through much of his life. He was dismayed by the devastation that he saw on the ground as a POW and sadly, he lost his brother in the Pacific. His experiences were something that he only shared details with fellow servicemen. He rarely spoke to his family about his time in Europe. I think that is characteristic, especially of his generation. Therefore, I am deeply touched to read about his sacrifices with the honor and dignity he so deserves. I wish to thank Joe Barrett, especially, for writing about my Dad so beautifully.

With love,  
Meg Catizme

PS: We miss you all very much!

## Mystic Poets Society

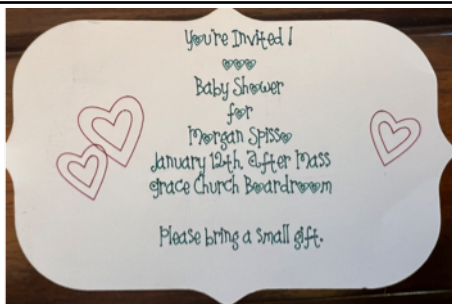
This week's poem is sent to us by Eileen Bloomer. Thanks Eileen!  
If you have a poem or reflection that you would consider sharing with your fellow parishioners, please send it to me. Thank you, Joe.

On the last day of one year	so close that I can see
I recall my winter walk	their bright black eyes,
down streets of melted snow,	soft gray and brown feathers,
the still green grass revealed	their delicate feet perched
in the light of a warmer day.	on the bright bush.
I search for yellow faces of dandelions,	For one breath of a moment
memories crouched in winter grass,	I stop,
but that color is not found this day.	we all pause, one breath breathing,
I am	then a distant bird calls
still walking,	and the three small birds
still seeking,	open their wings and fly on.
passing by,	I move along, too, my feet
when from the corner of my eye	walking into whatever the day brings.
I find/am found by three small gray birds	~Eileen
on a red berry bush	



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.



We will be having a baby shower for Morgan Spisso.

When: January 12th after Mass

Where: Grace Church Boardroom

If you wish, please bring a small gift.



[Grace Calendar](#)

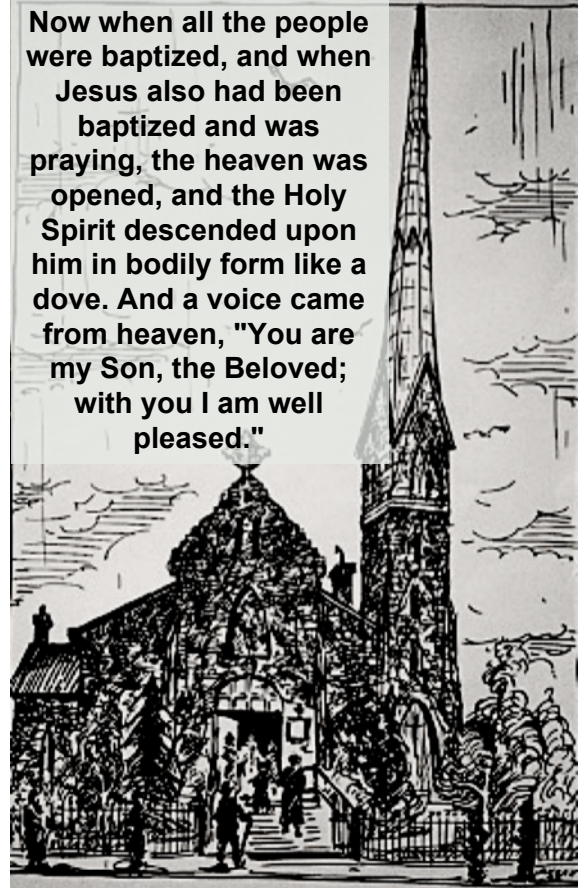
### Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday January 19th starting at 11:15 AM. All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the October 20, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the November 17, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



GRACE CHURCH 1945

## Your Grace Church Vestry.

### Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

### *Clerk of the Vestry:*

### *Treasurer:*

Kathleen Hamilton

Allison McLean

### Vestry:

Lorraine Witkowski

Anne Caldwell

Barbara Chumard

Michelle Tubbs

William Gunn

Lenora Vaughan

Mark Strunsky

Eileen Bloomer

Torry Guardino