

March 2, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
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“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”
 ~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Sunday March 2nd

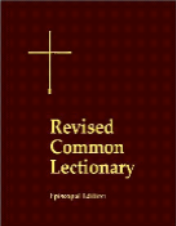
Last Sunday After The Epiphany (Rite I)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Carla Boyer
MC/2nd Chalice	Janet Cusack
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Allison McLean
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Connie Herm
NT Lector	Mark Strunsky
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. [Click Here](#)

To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. [Click Here](#)

For the Sunday prayer bulletin. [Click Here](#)



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

Sunday March 2nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Tuesday March 4th	5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Potluck
Wednesday March 5th	Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Healing Mass with imposition of ashes 7:00 PM Mass with imposition of ashes
Friday March 7th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 9th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) Daylight Savings Time Begins
Wednesday March 12th	No Healing Mass while Fr. Victor heals!
Friday March 14th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 16th	9:30 AM Sunday Morning Prayer (Rite I)

The Photography Corner



This week's photograph of the ice caves at Mohonk Mountain from end of summer. It was taken by Janet Cusack who said the cave "is like built in air conditioning as it was hot and we were chilly in the caves." Thank you Janet!

I would like to thank all who have shared photographs with us. ~Joe



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 was written and 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.

**I follow the moon-
or the moonlight follows me-
down the dark corridor of a dream,
framed like a black and white picture,
then out of the dream
through my brief waking and rising in the
night,
as I gaze out the window and find
the waning celestial body in a dark, clear
sky.**

**These days, I walk through
the remains of a snow and ice storm,
trying to see within the dreaded cold
the beauty, the intricate pattern of the**

**ice,
the fragile crystals suspended at the
edge
of a snowbank, sparkling in the winter
sun,
in the lengthening light of days.
Or in the sparkle of an icy rooftop
reflecting moonlight that for a moment
finds a way through my dark window,
spilling surprising gems, brief points of
light
across a cold bare floor
as I wait and watch for the sunrise,
wait and watch for the world to thaw.**

~Eileen

Offering Prayer: Rite I

I don't know about you, but I always feel a sense that something is missing when the offering is brought to the altar during the Rite I service and is blessed by Father Victor. During the Rite II service, we are usually singing a hymn, but during Rite I service we stand in silence.

Some of you may remember that in the past we have said the following when the offering was given to the priest to be blessed.

**"All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee."**

This is a reminder to us that the gifts that we are giving to God in our offerings were gifts to us from God.

I've discussed this with Father Victor, and would like to suggest that we resume using this prayer during the Rite 1 offering. We will include it in the prayer bulletins for Rite I to remind us to use it. ~Claire

SHROVE TUESDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND BURNING OF THE PALMS:

Traditionally, Grace Church has held a Shrove Tuesday dinner for our parish, followed by the burning of palms, which are used on Ash Wednesday. While this began as a pancake supper, over the past number of years, it evolved into a potluck dinner.

While we cancelled the dinner last year (I think because of a significant snow storm), we would like to hold one this year, again followed by the burning of palms.

The dinner will be held on Shrove Tuesday, Tuesday, March 4th at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of Phyllis' office. If you would like to come and bring something to share, but will not be in church to sign up before the dinner, please call or email the church office and leave a message. Also, if you would like to come, but need a ride, please call or email the church office and someone will get back to you to try and arrange transportation.

This is wonderful time to come together, share a meal and prepare for the beginning of Lent. ~Claire



Click below to
[Register](#)

From the Rector's Desk



Back in June of 2024 I began using a cane on a regular basis. Although this has worked out well, even for the tour Rhonda and I took of central

Europe that summer, it has also limited my ability to do many things which I love doing. I have made the decision to have knee replacement surgery done and my doctor is available for that on March 10, and one pretty much has to take what one can get.

Although I feel awkward about missing a couple of Sundays during Lent (March 16 and 23) I have every reason to believe that I will be in good shape before Easter.

Please keep me and my recovery in your prayers. I look forward to returning with refreshed mobility. ~Fr Vic

TRICKY TRAY 2025:

As you have read in a past Epistle, the Fundraising Committee has begun to prepare for our annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025. We are hoping for your support.

As you may remember, we offer a large number prizes (last year we had over 140!) for our guests to “bid” on. Many of the prizes are baskets which we put together, but prizes may also include gift cards, household items, small appliances, workshop items, etc. We hope that a number of you will want to put together a basket, or several baskets, for this event. If you would like to make a basket, the theme ideas are limitless! A list of possible theme ideas will be available at church beginning on 3/2/25. If you do not come into church, we would be happy to email the list to you. The value of the basket is up to you, but should not exceed \$40.

Another way that you can help is to ask for donations of gift cards from local businesses for us to use as prizes. We will also have copies of our donation letter and donation form available at church. If you are uncomfortable asking for a donation, you may also purchase a gift card.

Finally, we are always in need of cash donations, in any amount, to offset the cost of special prizes, basket items or the other supplies needed for the event. If you wish to give a donation, please see a member of the committee.

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts: Mark Strunksy, Anne Caldwell, David White, Barbara Chumard, Sue Scott and Claire Newquist

Cafe Meeting

On March 30th after Mass, a cafe meeting will take place at Grace Church. Here participants will rotate through topic tables for brief and focused discussions on various aspects of the life of the church. Please join us for this very important opportunity to both learn and give feedback on the future of Grace Church. For more details, please feel free to contact me.
~John Cusack

Repair Cafe



On Saturday, March 15, 2025, 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.

If you have any questions call Ed & Monica Irlbacher at 845.343.6839



Grace Calendar

Vestry News

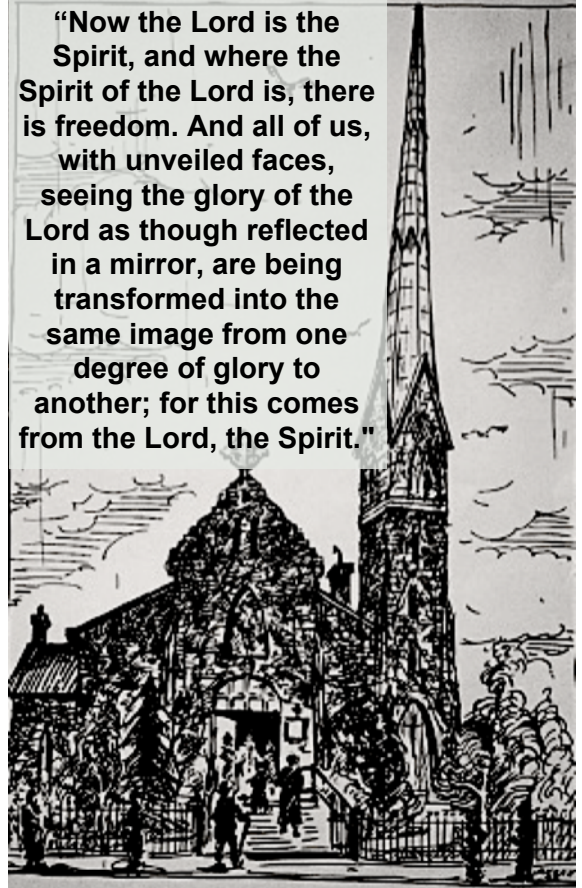
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday March 16th starting at 11:15 AM.

All are invited to attend!

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

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

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”



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