

March 30, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org


email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Sunday March 30th

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Rite I)

Morning Prayer

There will be no Holy Eucharist this Sunday as Father Victor continues to recover from surgery.



"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

~Helen Keller, author

Use our audio mixer to listen to the 9:30 Sunday Mass live. [Click Here](#)

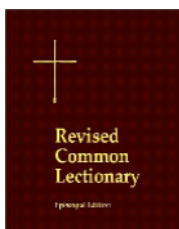
To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. [Click Here](#)

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

Friday March 28th

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday March 30th

9:30 AM Sunday Morning Prayer (Rite I)

Cafe meetings to follow

Wednesday April 2nd

No Healing Mass while Fr. Victor heals!

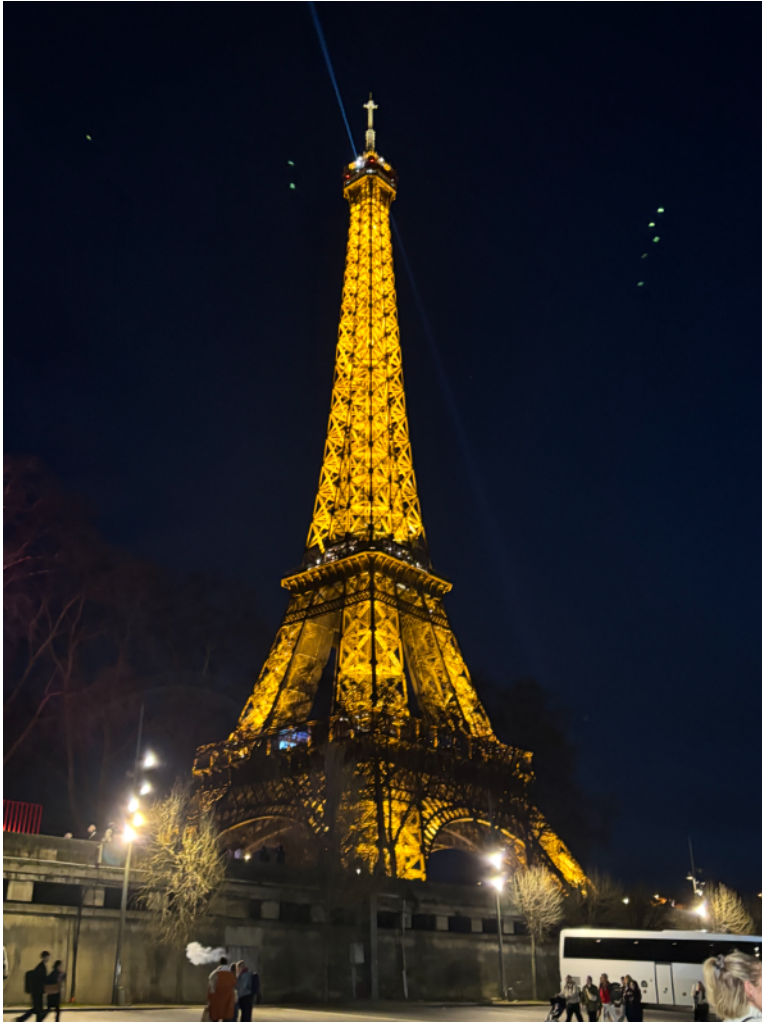
Friday April 4th

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday April 6th

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line.

The Photography Corner



Claire Newquist took this photograph, which needs no introduction, on her recent trip to Paris. Thank you Claire!

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.

Stations of the Cross

Grace Church has had a long tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent. A group of us gather together at 6:30 pm each Friday during Lent to follow the path that Jesus walked from his Condemnation by Pontus Pilate to the cross on Calvary to the Tomb. It is a simple service of prayers, readings and music which allows us to walk with Jesus during his final hours. The leader and torches move around the church stopping at each of the reliefs which hang on the walls of the nave. These depict the 14 “stations” or stops on Jesus’ journey.

Please consider joining us at 6:30 pm for this very simple but moving service on one or more of the Fridays during Lent: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 and 4/11. If you have any questions, speak to Father Victor or Claire Newquist. ~Claire

TRICKY TRAY 2025:

“I know that the Tricky Tray is coming up and I want to help, but I don’t know how. What can I do?” Have you thought this or said it to a friend? If yes, here are some ways that you can help.

- *Take a flier and post it somewhere, share it with your friends or post it on Facebook. Contact Mark if you need him to email it to you.
- *Ask a local vendor for a gift card; or a buy a gift card yourself to use in lieu of a basket. Popular gift cards are from Home Goods, Amazon, Starbucks, Dunkin’ Donuts, any fast food restaurant, etc.
- *If you see large baskets or bins, buy one or two; we always need these.
- *Buy some items to go into a basket. There is a list of basket suggestions at church or we can email you a list.
- *Make a monetary donation toward a basket or special prize.
- *Let Anne know if you can take a road sign. They will be available after church on April 6th.
- *Donate new items to be used as door prizes—some ideas are candles, gift cards in small denominations (\$5), mugs, stationary, inexpensive kids toys.
- *Do you have something at home that you bought but can’t remember why you bought it and haven’t used, donate it to be used in lieu of a basket. Last year someone donated an unused aquarium. Remember the item must be new and, if possible, in its original packaging.

As always, thank you for your continued support. The Fundraising Committee: Mark, Anne, David, Barbara, Sue and Claire

Easter Flowers

Each Easter the flowers on the altar and around the church are donated in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us. If you would like to have someone remembered in the Easter Flower Bulletin, please complete one of the Flower envelopes that are in the pews and in other locations around the church. You should include your name, the name(s) of who you are remembering, and your donation for the flowers. If you are not in church to complete a Flower envelope, please send your information via email to secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com or call the church office, 845-343-6101, and leave a message. In order to complete the Bulletin, we need your information by Monday, April 14. If you have any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the Parish Office at 845-343-6101.

Mystic Poets Society

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

Shamrocks
And everything green,
A day when all are Irish.

Music from the Isle entertains
As spectators wait,
Feet keeping the beat.

Wind blows.
Green, white and orange flags
And balloons dance.

The crowd grows
as time nears.
The parade steps off.

Marching bands with brass
And percussion, keeping time
In practiced unison.

Weaving their way
Through streets
Lined with onlookers.

Bagpipe drones aim skyward
Sorrowfully screaming at
Heavens above.

Drums accompany pipes
With cadenced strikes
And staccato beat.

Everyday troubles
forgotten for this
short-lived moment in time.

Briefly pushed to the
back corners
Of otherwise busy minds.

By the rhythmic
Synchronization of
marching pipes and drums.

~Joe



It is with great sadness that we must tell you of the passing of Canon John Osgood. As many of you remember, Father John Osgood was the Rector here at Grace Church from 1979 to 1996. As more information becomes available, we will share it with you. ~Joe

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday:	Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday:	Thursday, April 17 at 7 PM followed by the Vigil at the Altar of Repose
Good Friday:	Friday, April 18 at 7 PM Noon to 3:00 PM GMIC Good Friday Service @ St Paul's Methodist Church
Great Vigil of Easter:	Saturday, April 19 at 7 PM
Easter Day:	Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 AM Flowering of the Cross in the churchyard (weather permitting) at 9:15



Cafe Meeting - Don't Miss Out!

Join the Conversation and Make a Difference!

Mark your calendars for **March 30th!** After Mass, you're invited to an exciting Café Meeting where you'll have the chance to engage in brief, focused discussions at rotating topic tables.

This is your opportunity to learn, share your thoughts, and help shape the future of Grace Church!

Explore These Key Areas:

Buildings and Grounds: Share your ideas on maintaining and enhancing our beautiful church property. Your input is essential!

Congregational Development: Help us grow our church's vision and create a welcoming environment for everyone.

Liturgy: Discover ways to enrich our spiritual practices by blending our cherished traditions with the needs of a changing society.

Music: Dive into a conversation about the vital role of music in worship and how it can deepen your spiritual journey.

Guild of St. Margaret: Learn about the incredible work of our soup kitchen and food pantry and discover how you can make a difference!

Finance: Join the discussion on managing church resources wisely and explore ideas for budgeting and planning a brighter future.

Why You Should Join Us:

- Share your voice and ideas.
- Connect with fellow members.
- Help guide the future of Grace Church.

Have questions? Contact John Cusack for more information.
We're excited to see you there—let's shape the future together!





Grace Calendar

Vestry News

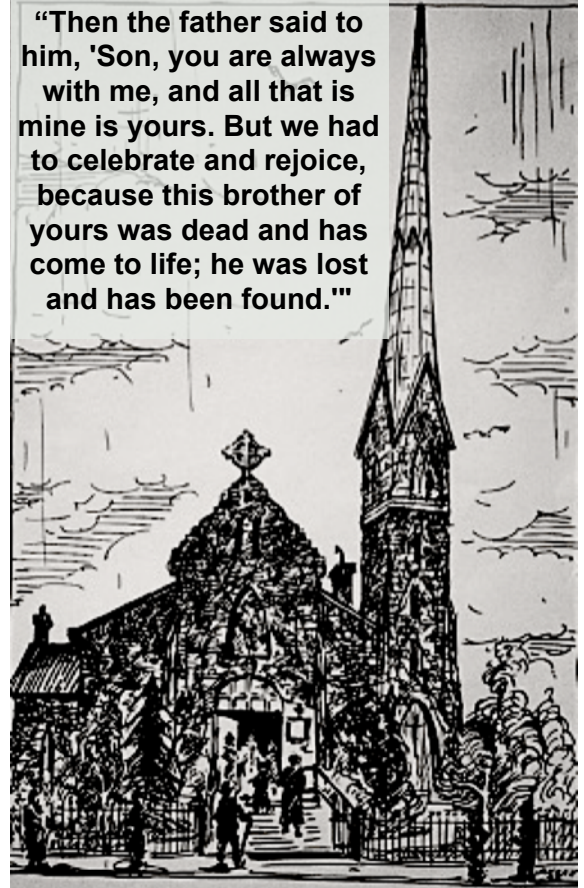
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday April 27th starting at 11:00 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the February 16, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the January 19, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

“Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”



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