The Epistle



November 16, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

November 16th (Rite I) The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

	Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
	MC/2nd Chalice	Carla Boyer
	Thurifer	
	Crucifer	
	Acolyte	Marlene Presley
	Acolyte	
	OT Lector	Janet Cusack
	NT Lector	Eileen Barrett
	Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
"As we express our gratitude,	Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Mark Strunsky Volunteer
	Use our audio mixer to listen to the 9:30	
we must never forget that the		
highest appreciation is not to	Sunday Mass live.	Click Here
utter words, but to live by	To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live.	
them."		Click Here
~John F Kennedy	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.

Revised Common Lectionary

https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2025.html

Upcoming Events

Saturday November 15th 249th Diocesan Convention

Sunday November 16th 9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person & on-line (Rite I)

11:15 Monthly Vestry Meeting

Wednesday November 19th 10:00 AM Healing Mass

Saturday November 22nd 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Grace Holiday Fair, Bake Sale and

Fish & Chips Luncheon

Sunday November 23rd 9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person & on-line (Rite II)

Wednesday November 26th No Healing Mass

Thursday November 27th Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed.

Sunday November 30th 9:30 AM Morning Prayer (Rite I)

Wednesday December 3rd 10:00 AM Healing Mass

Sunday December 7th 9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person & on-line (Rite II)

Wednesday December 10th 10:00 AM Healing Mass

The Photography Corner

This photograph, of the Ross Fountain in the Princes Street Gardens, was taken last summer in Scotland. An excited dog ran around the fountain which put the birds into flight. Thank you to all who have sent us photographs to share. I could use some more pictures if you'd like to send some. ~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 sent to us by Eileen Bloomer. Thank you 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 watch the small, dark bird bodies
darting from one bare branch to another,
their stick-straight legs landing
perfectly, precisely every time.
I wonder how and why they move
among these leaf-lost trees
on this cold day in the rain.
I'm not sure how to land
anywhere anymore as I write words
that fall from branches of tangled thoughts,
as I try to write the name, "God"
and the ink fades and runs dry

on the random, blank page.

And then I remember shifting sunlight on the last yellow leaves, trembling leaves going golden.

I remember

One who sees every bird,
One who walks perfectly and precisely
over any body of wide water
through rain and wind, saying,
"I Am Who I Am... Do not be afraid"
in this season of letting go,
in every season.

~Eileen

Thanksgiving Dinner needs

I know that we are just entering November, but it is not too early to start thinking about Thanksgiving, and that is what Cyndi Franchio has been doing for the past several weeks. Many of you know that Cyndi has been coordinating our Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for close to 20 years.

For many of these years, a local church donated the turkeys that Cyndi's volunteers cooked and served. This year that church is unable to donate the turkeys. In addition, Cyndi is also in need of pies for desert for the Thanksgiving meal.

Cyndi has asked that we ask our parishioners to consider donating a turkey and/or a pie. If you are donating a turkey—frozen please—please bring it to church by Sunday, November 16th. If you are donating a pie—store bought only and not frozen—Cyndi needs them by Sunday, November 23rd.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, that would also be much appreciated. \$25 should pay for a turkey and \$10-12 for a pie. Cash donations should be in an envelope with your name and "GSM Thanksgiving Meal" on it. Checks may be made out to the Guild of St Margaret, with Thanksgiving Meal in the memo line. These donations can be given to Carolanne Cusack at the GSM office, Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm or to John Cusack or Claire Newquist at church. We appreciate any monetary donations by Sunday November 16th so that Cyndi can plan appropriately for the Thanksgiving meal.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Guild of St Margaret. ~Claire

Help Needed

Many of you have already heard that our fellow parishioner, Edna Brooks, is from Jamaica. She has a home there, or at least she did, and a large family living there. Edna's home and those of many of her family members and friends have been destroyed or seriously damaged by hurricane Melissa. With the damage to the roads and the infastructure, some places are unreachable. As part of her parish family, we would like to offer Edna and her family and friends some assistance. If you would be interested in making a contribution to help, please let Father Victor, Joe Barrett or Claire Newquist know. Please make checks out to Grace Church with either Edna Brooks or Jamaica in the memo line. We also ask that you remember Edna, her family and all those in Jamaica in your prayers. Thank you. Joe & Claire

2025 Holiday Fair

November is here, and we turned the clocks back. While you were getting that extra hour of sleep a couple of weeks ago, your Fundraising Committee was busy thinking of ways for us to make this year's Holiday Fair the best one ever! In order to do this, we need your help.

You may ask, "How can I help?" Here are a number of ways.

- 1. Pick up a road sign and place it in a prominent location; these should be available after mass on Sunday. See Anne Caldwell for a sign.
- 2. Bake something yummy for our Bake Sale—you should be getting a call asking for your help with this. There is also a sign up sheet for the Bake Sale posted outside of the GSM office.
- 3. Donate a gift card for our Gift Card Tree; this is the prize for participants in the Holiday Fair Trail.
- 4. Sell your raffle tickets!!
- 5. Make a donation towards our raffle prizes: we are purchasing gift cards from local grocery stores and local pizza restaurants.
- 6. Buy your ticket for the delicious Fish & Chips lunch. We are limiting the number of tickets sold to 100. Tickets are still only \$20 for a full, delicious meal!
- 7. Think about how you can help with the work setting up the Fair on Friday, November 21st and on the day of the Fair. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the Guild Office.
- 8. Last, but definitely not least, talk the Fair and the Holiday Fair Trail up! Tell your family, friends and neighbors and post our fliers all over Middletown and the surrounding area.

Many thanks to all of you who have already made donations and offered assistance. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a dedicated and caring congregation to make a fundraiser a success.

The Fundraising Committee: Mark, Anne, David, Barbara, Charlotte, Sue and Claire



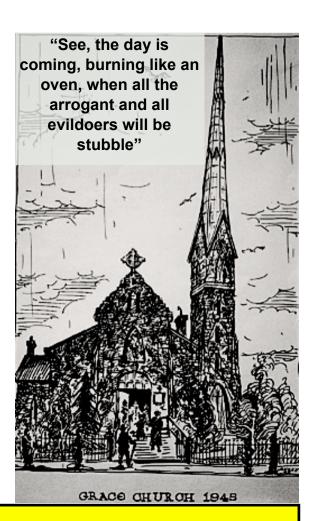
Vestry News

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

All are invited to attend!

Click here to read the minutes of the September 21, 2025 Vestry meeting

Click here to read the minutes of the August 17, 2025 Vestry meeting



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
Analise Reed Joseph Barrett
Mark Strunsky Eileen Bloomer

David White (Student member of Vestry)

Torry Guardino