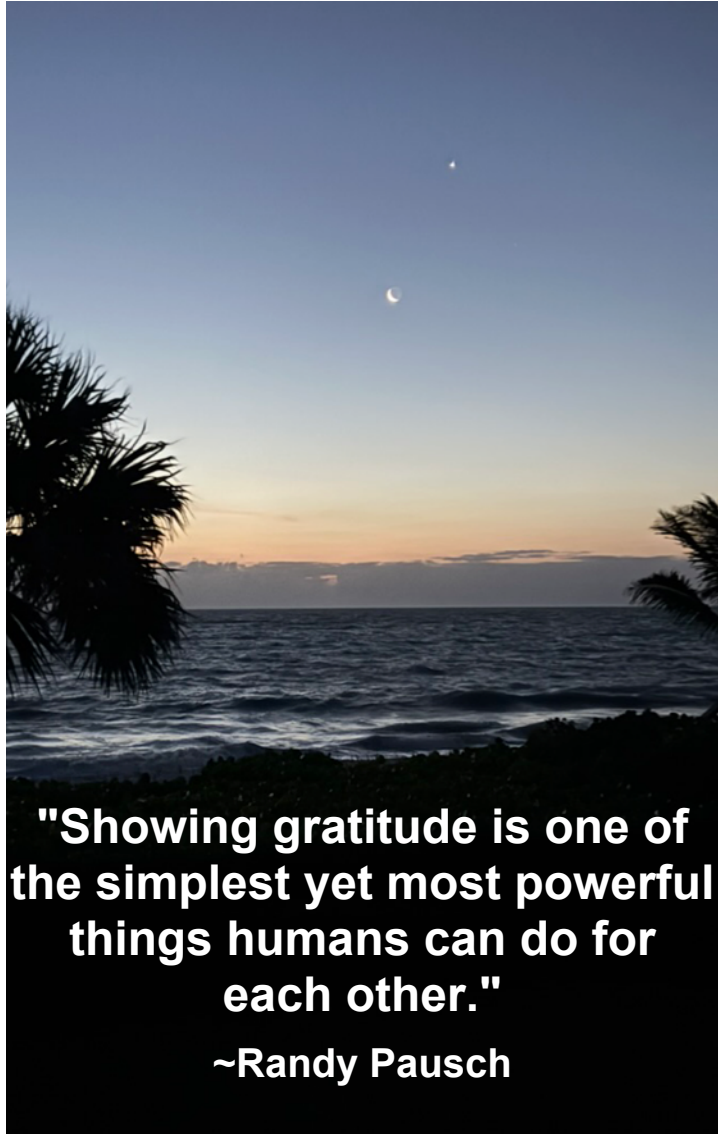




November 23, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org

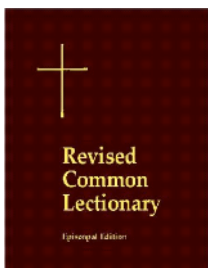
email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

November 23rd (Rite II) The Last Sunday After Pentecost



"Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other."
~Randy Pausch

Subdeacon/Chalice	Torry Guardino
MC/2nd Chalice	Rick Scott
Thurifer	Claire Newquist
Crucifer	Savannah Spisso
Acolyte	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
OT Lector	David Brokaw
NT Lector	Charlotte Durma
Prayers for Candidate	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Volunteers
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>

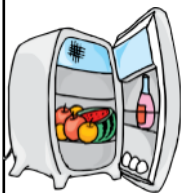
Upcoming Events

Friday November 21st	2:00 PM to Completion - Grace Holiday Fair set-up
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)
Tuesday November 25th	7:00 PM GMIC Thanksgiving Service at Grace Church
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
Sunday December 21st	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person & on-line (Rite I)

The Photography Corner

This is another photograph of the Ross Fountain in the Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh Scotland. Here is a picture of the “culprit” circling the fountain causing the birds at the landmark to take flight in last week’s photo.

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.

**See the crescent, the shining crescent
moon
in the morning dark, traveling
among clouds the wind left behind.
See the whole moon, full moon,
light and shadow, one created perfect circle
in the sky, always circling, circling.
She came when creation called,
when They spoke a Word,
and that Word was All There Is,
in the beginning, now, and ever shall be.
So be it.
They came when humanity called,
a voice in the wilderness world
speaking One Word over and over:**

**Love. Love is all They said.
They climbed a mountain, sailed the sea,
walked here, saying, Eat, Drink, and Be!
Then They climbed one last hard hill
to an ending.
So be it.
They look back in dream moments
at what They left behind:
an empty tomb, a new beginning,
new womb, a way to travel,
an invitation to Come and See
all that we can ever Be.
And Love is All They ever say.
~Eileen**

Diocesan Convention Wrap-up

On Saturday, November 15th, Father Victor and I attended the 249th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It was held at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine,



and was a busy day as the business of our diocese was conducted for the upcoming year. The 2026 Diocesan budget was passed, elections for various Diocesan committees and positions were conducted and resolutions to modify several Diocesan canons were discussed and voted on. But probably the most important change to be effected was to change how the Diocesan assessments paid by congregations are calculated. We moved from a process called the apportioned share financial model to the common mission share financial model. Under the common mission share model most congregations will pay less annual assessment than the old model. A resolution to forgive the arrearages of those congregations in default prior to 12/31/2024, also passed. Both of these financial changes will benefit our parish. If you have specific questions about Convention, please feel free to

contact either myself or Father Victor. ~Joe

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 infrastructure, 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

When we started writing these articles 7 weeks ago, Saturday, November 22nd seemed very far away. Now it's upon us. This is the last week before the Fair, and we have some work to do.

First, and most importantly, we need to thank everyone who has contributed in any way towards the fair. Your Vestry has contributed monies for our cash prize. Many members of the parish have sold their raffle tickets; some of you have even asked for more tickets to sell! A number of you have made contributions towards our basket making endeavors or toward our raffle prizes or toward the Holiday Fair trail gift card tree. Each of these contributions have meant less money that we have to lay out and more profit for the church. **THANK YOU ALL!**

BUT, as we say each week, the work isn't over yet. There is still more to do. This Friday, November 21st we will be setting up for the Fair. We begin in the morning and work until the late afternoon or early evening. Please sign up to help. Our work begins again early Saturday morning, November 22nd, as we make last minute preparations—and ready ourselves to open the doors at 9 am. Again, please sign up to help at some point during the day. The sign up sheets are hung up outside the Guild of St Margaret office.

If you haven't already done so, please sell your raffle tickets; please bring sold and unsold tickets into church by 9 am on 11/22 at the latest. We sell raffle tickets throughout the day of the Fair.

We have limited the number of tickets to the Fish & Chips luncheon to 100. They are going fast, so buy your tickets ahead of time.

As always, please tell everyone you know about the Fair and invite them to come, and come yourselves. It's a wonderful event and we want to see you there.

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



Thanksgiving Dinner needs

Many of you know that Cyndi Francio 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

Mold Remediation Update

The mold remediation of our Parish House basement began about 2 weeks ago when workers from Paul Davis Restoration created a negative pressure environment to keep any airborne mold spores from spreading by sealing off the contaminated area with plastic and utilizing a machine to create negative pressure inside. Once

assembled, volunteers from Grace were able to enter the area to recover items stored in the contaminated basement area. Now that the items to be saved have been moved out, the mold remediation process began in earnest this past Monday. It is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks to complete the job. ~Joe





**“Father, forgive them;
for they
do not know what
they are doing.”**



GRACE CHURCH 1948

Vestry News

**The next Vestry meeting will be held in the
boardroom on Sunday December 21st
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
October 19, 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

Torry Guardino

David White (Student member of Vestry)