



December 7, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)

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## December 7th (Rite II) The Second Sunday of Advent



**"Christmas is the season for  
kindling the fire of hospitality  
in the hall, the genial flame of  
charity in the heart."**

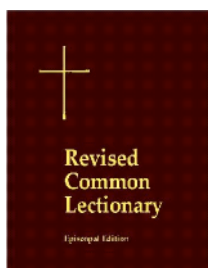
~Washington Irving

Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Thurifer	David White
Crucifer	Torry Guardino
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	David Brokaw
OT Lector	Lourdes Cruz
NT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett John Cusack Volunteer

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

<b>Sunday December 7th</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person &amp; on-line (Rite II)</b> <b>84th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor</b> <b>11:15 AM Special Vestry Budget Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday December 10th</b>	<b>10:00 AM Healing Mass</b>
<b>Friday December 12th</b>	<b>7:00 PM Warwick Valley Chorale Holiday Concert</b>
<b>Sunday December 14th</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person &amp; on-line (Rite I)</b>
<b>Wednesday December 17th</b>	<b>10:00 AM Healing Mass</b>
<b>Sunday December 21st</b>	<b>9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person &amp; on-line (Rite II)</b> <b>11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday December 24th</b>	<b>4:00 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)</b>
<b>Thursday December 25th</b>	<b>Merry Christmas!</b> <b>9:30 AM Christmas Day Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)</b>

## The Photography Corner



**This week's photograph of the Newburgh waterfront was sent to us by Lorraine Witkowski. As the weather turns cold and the foliage is bare, look ahead to walking the waterfront in warmer times! Thank you Lorraine!**

**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**

## **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.**

**A looming black cloud  
in the eastern sky  
shapes a word: mountain.  
Cold dawn coming,  
sun ready to rise,  
fire and light,  
as the mountain cloud  
frames the horizon,  
as it forms and reforms,  
as so many black birds hurry-fly  
across the bluing sky.**

**I stumble through words and feelings,  
naming all the names of things  
that push my life  
into living, into the day.  
And then I read the words:  
Hope might just keep us alive.  
And then the unseen wild geese  
sing at the edge of this day,  
a wordless song that catches my heart  
mid-fall, out of time, and I let go of time.  
Where shall We go from here?**

**~Eileen**

## **Mold Remediation Update**

**The work for phase one has been completed and our mold expert took samples on December 4th to do follow-up testing. When the results come back we'll know if we are able to proceed with phase two. Basically, we are at the midway point of the project. In the first phase, Paul Davis Restoration sealed off one side of the basement hallway and did the remediation work on the other side. Once we have a passing test they will then reverse the process, sealing off the already cleaned side and working on the opposite side. After the completion of phase two we will bring the expert in for one final mold test to get the seal of approval for our building. ~Fr. Victor**

**If you look closely at this photo, on the left is the Choir Director's room and on the right you can see the doors are sealed off with plastic. The rooms on the right will be cleaned in the second phase while the rooms on the left will then be sealed off during phase two.**





## Christmas Flowers

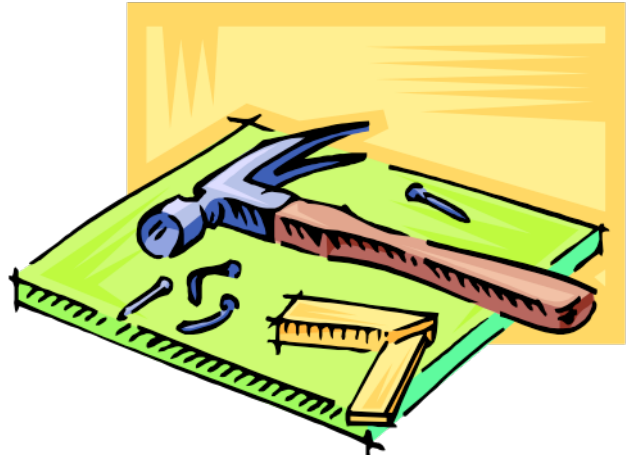
Sunday, November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Christ child.

As we prepare ourselves for Christ's coming (along with decorating our homes, buying those gifts and baking cookies and other goodies) it is also time for us to do some planning for preparing our beautiful church for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, please use the envelopes in the pews. Make certain that you put your name, the name of those you are remembering and your check or cash in the envelopes and put them in the offering plate or drop them by the office by Sunday, December 21st. This will give us enough time to put the Christmas Flower bulletin together for our services on the 24th and 25th. Any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the parish office at 845-343-6101. ~Claire

## Repair Cafe

On Saturday, December 20, 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



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.

# ***Warwick Valley Chorale***

## ***85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holiday Concert***



Admission is ***FREE*** (contributions gratefully accepted)

***Friday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM*** at Goshen Christian Reformed Church,  
2440 NY Route 17A, Goshen NY 10924

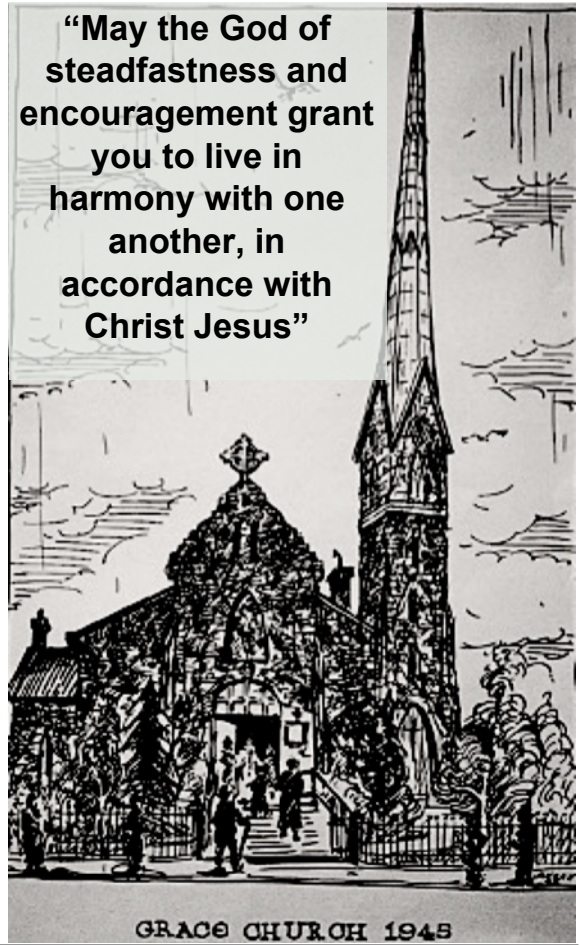
***Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM*** at Grace Episcopal Church,  
58 North Street, Middletown NY 10940

***Sunday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM*** at St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church,  
75 Sanfordville Road, Warwick NY 10990

*Ninety voices, with harp and piano, performing*  
***Benjamin Britten, A Ceremony of Carols***  
*and many other favorite songs of the season*

***www.WarwickValleyChorale.org*** - a 501(c)3 nonprofit (845) 477-8391





### **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)