

# The Epistle



January 4, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
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*January 4th (Rite II) The Second Sunday after Christmas*



**"The best way to spread  
Christmas cheer is singing  
loud for all to hear."**

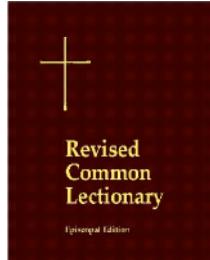
~Elf (2003)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Phyllis Guardino
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	David Brokaw
Crucifer	Rick Scott
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	Eileen Barrett
OT Lector	Joe Gayton
NT Lector	Bill Gunn
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Mark Strunsky 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/Calendar2026.html>

## Upcoming Events

### Happy New Year!

Sunday January 4th

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)

Wednesday January 7th

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Sunday January 11th

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

Wednesday January 14th

3:00 PM St. James Church in Goshen - Benefit Concert for Habitat for Humanity featuring the Grace Church Choir

Sunday January 18th

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Monday January 19th

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)

Wednesday January 21st

11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting

Sunday January 25th

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office Closed

10:00 AM Healing Mass

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

## The Photography Corner



I took this photograph of Loch Broom, a sea loch on the northwestern coast of Scotland, this past summer. Loch Broom (Loch a'Bhraoin in Scottish Gaelic meaning “the lake of drizzling rain”), opens into a strait of the northern Atlantic Ocean. Ullapool, a scenic village in the Scottish Highlands, sits on its eastern shore. Thank you to all who have sent us photographs to share. I need some more pictures if you'd like to send some. So, break out those cameras! ~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.

On the night before Christmas  
and all through my house,  
I went through the day imperfectly,  
and made it home at the end.  
There was some pain; impatience  
kept tapping my shoulder,  
and I shook my head: no.  
At times, I lost my voice.  
In time, a quiet time, I found it again,  
rough, ragged at the edges, careful  
notes

sung in and out of tune.  
I wanted to shut doors,  
but a key was placed in my hand;  
what was locked opened.  
Welcome, welcome, welcome.  
I'll leave my door unlocked this  
Christmas.  
I'll come and see what will be born in me  
in this perfectly imperfect life.

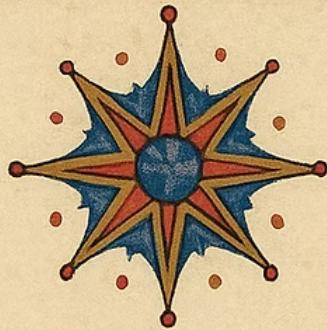
~Eileen

This past Sunday, we celebrated our December birthdays with a delicious and festive coffee hour. Happy birthday Carla, Connie and Savannah!



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.



# **TWELFTH NIGHT**

## **CHORAL CONCERT**

### **HUDSON VALLEY CHOIRS**

**A BENEFIT FOR**



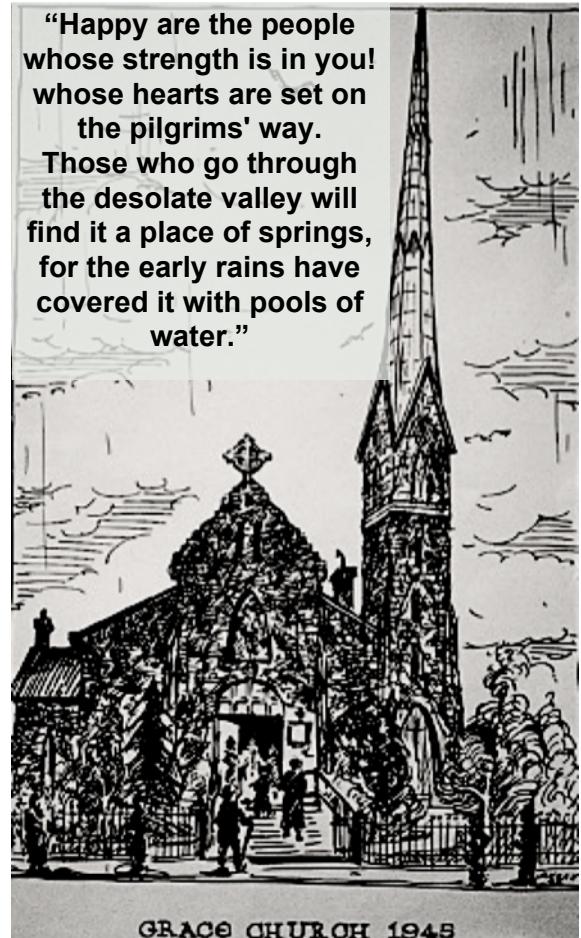
**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th 2026**  
**3PM**

**ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**1 ST. JAMES PLACE, GOSHEN, NY**



"Happy are the people  
whose strength is in you!  
whose hearts are set on  
the pilgrims' way.  
Those who go through  
the desolate valley will  
find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have  
covered it with pools of  
water."



## Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday January 18th starting at 11:15 AM.  
All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the November 16, 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:**

Kathleen Hamilton

### **Treasurer:**

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)