

# The Epistle



January 11, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
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## January 11th (Rite I) The First Sunday after the Epiphany



**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

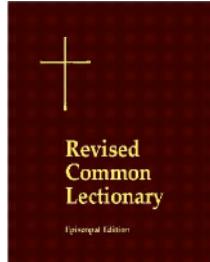
~Martin Luther King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

Subdeacon/Chalice	Janet Cusack
MC/2nd Chalice	Marlene Presley
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Carla Boyer
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Connie Herm
NT Lector	David Brokaw
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	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

Sunday January 11th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
	3:00 PM St. James Church in Goshen - Benefit Concert for Habitat for Humanity featuring the Grace Church Choir
Wednesday January 14th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday January 18th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
	11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Monday January 19th	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office Closed
Wednesday January 21st	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday January 25th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday January 28th	10:00 AM Healing Mass

## The Photography Corner



I took this photograph of, what I believe is, a Zinnia flower last October in Virginia while pumpkin picking. As we find ourselves in the thick of winter, we can look forward to the upcoming greens and colors of the warmer weather!

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

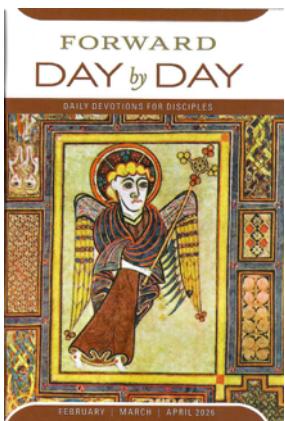
## Mystic Poets Society

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.

In the beginning of a new year  
we talk about endings: is this  
the last haircut, the last Christmas tree,  
the last journey? We speak of dying,  
of death. We count down days  
remaining. We talk about endings  
as we find words about beginnings,  
the mirror reflecting what was,  
what is, and what will be  
undying: the first time I saw your face,  
our daily encounters,  
red birds in winter trees,  
cups of warm coffee shared,  
all that we see here now  
with grateful, smiling eyes.  
We come close to the edge,

to the mystery beyond us,  
then we fall into the cracks,  
the moss filled cracks of living a day,  
business as usual. Yet, we hear an  
echo-  
there is an echo at the edge,  
a wild wordless voice, an invitation  
to come and see again and again.  
We are so often blind and deaf,  
but we have eyes and ears given,  
this gift given to see and hear,  
to be, just be, here, now.

~Eileen



A view into  
Grace taken last  
Sunday from the  
North Street  
doors.

The new quarter Forward Day by Day booklets have arrived. There is a supply of them at the usher's table near the North Street doors. If you need one sent to you, please contact me. ~Joe



# SHROVE TUESDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND BURNING OF THE PALMS

Traditionally, Grace Church has held a Shrove Tuesday dinner for our parish, followed by the burning of palms, which are used on Ash Wednesday. While this began as a pancake supper, over the past number of years, it evolved into a potluck dinner.

The dinner will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 pm in the parish hall and is being chaired by Joe Barrett. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the GSM Director's office on Sunday, January 18th to give you time to make plans. If you would like to come and bring something to share, but will not be in church to sign up before the dinner, please call or email the church office and leave a message. Also, if you would like to come, but need a ride, please call or email the church office and someone will get back to you to try and arrange transportation.

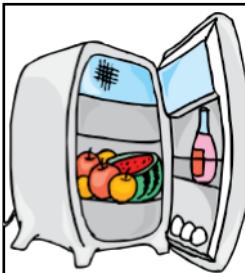
This is a wonderful time to come together, share a meal and prepare for the beginning of Lent. If you have any questions, please speak to Joe Barrett, Father Victor or Claire Newquist.

## The Sanctuary Candle

Many of you have most likely noticed the line at the end of the weekly service bulletin that usually reads: "The sanctuary candle burns in honor of Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist." It reads this way because no one has purchased the candle to be lit in honor or memory of someone.

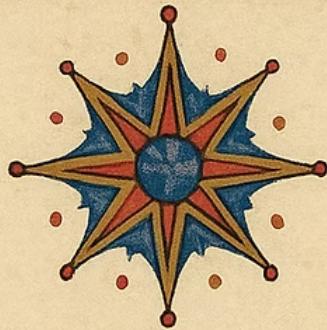
As we begin the new year, I want to remind you that this option is available to everyone. The price of a candle is \$10.00 which helps defray the Church's cost to purchase them. You can sign up to purchase a candle in the black notebook which hangs on the bulletin board in the vesting area. The sign up sheets have been updated for 2026. Please note that candles are significantly less expensive than the purchase of altar flowers and may be purchased for any Sunday during the year. There are certain seasons, Lent and Advent, when we do not have flowers on the altar. Also, during the beginning of the Christmas and Easter seasons we have the special seasonal flowers.

In closing, please consider the option of honoring a loved one with a sanctuary candle. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Father Victor or Claire Newquist.



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**



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

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



"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



## 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)