

The Epistle



January 18, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

January 18th (Rite II) The Second Sunday after the Epiphany



"We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

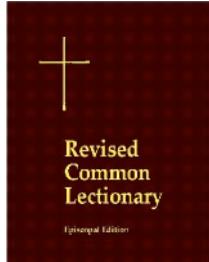
~Martin Luther King Jr

Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Thurifer	David White
Crucifer	David Brokaw
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	Eileen Barrett
OT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
NT Lector	Mark Strunsky
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Joseph 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/Calendar2026.html>

Upcoming Events

Sunday January 18th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting 4:00 PM GMIC MLK Jr. Celebration at the Middletown YMCA
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
Sunday February 1st	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday February 4th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday February 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday February 11th	10:00 Healing Mass

The Photography Corner



This week's photograph is of the ruins of Ardvreck Castle on the shore of Loch Assynt in northern Scotland. It was taken on a grey dreary day, in other words, a common Scottish day! The castle was built in the 15th century by the MacLeod Clan of Assynt and was eventually sacked in 1672 by the rival Mackenzie Clan. The castle is said to be haunted by the weeping ghost of one of the daughters of a MacLeod chief, who threw herself out of one of the windows after being promised to the Devil.

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.

I'm chasing words out of dream corners.

Worries and plans start the day,
all that I can hold, arrange,
and rearrange in my mind.

Then, the sky sings, Come and See!
a dawn of living colors
at the east edge of day.

The afternoon sighs, Come and See...
the sudden snow squall that comes
and catches me thinking
that my carefully timed plans

would keep me, keep me safe.

With my eyes, I just see the way
through the unplanned snow
as I slowly make my way home,
traveling east to west
into a brighter evening sky

of lingering and tapering snow.

And I come to see my place

in storm and story, light and dark.

Before the snow, I walk in the sun
under a blue sky, and I see

black crows walking on the winter
ground,

and calling from bare branches of black
trees.

Then, there is a new conversation
hidden in the evergreens,
croaking voices of unseen birds I
cannot name.

And I come to see small white clouds
traveling in the blue sky, gathering
at the eastern horizon and I recall
an unplanned lovely morning song
as I plan my day and my way home.

~Eileen

Congregational Survey

The vestry is inviting all members of the congregation to take part in a follow-up survey connected to our café meeting last March. Your reflections and ideas were invaluable then, and this survey is an opportunity to continue that conversation as we discern our next steps together. Every voice helps shape the direction of our congregation and your participation will make a meaningful difference.

A link to the survey will be sent out during the first week of February. When it arrives, we hope you'll take a few minutes to share your thoughts. If you have any questions or concerns please feel to reach out to Claire Newquist, Michelle Tubbs, or John Cusack. Thank you.



From the Rector's Desk:

Please join me in giving a warm thank you to Allison Mclean for her years of service as our Parish Treasurer. This is a highly detailed responsibility and Allison managed it with great diligence. I am personally very grateful for your service Allison; you have certainly earned this opportunity to step down from those responsibilities and pass the baton. I am happy to say that Phyllis Guardino has agreed to pick up that baton as our next Parish Treasurer and work with our Assistant Treasurer Janet Cusack, to ensure finances continue to run smoothly and accurately. Thank you, Phyllis, for coming on board and thank you Janet for continuing.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the Rector's Christmas Purse, I am deeply grateful for your generosity and kindness. Serving here at Grace is a high point of my ministerial life, I find joy in serving here each and every day.

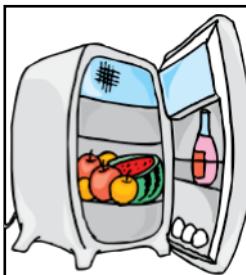
Fr. Vic

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 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.

WE STILL DREAM

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

Presented by the
Greater Middletown Interfaith Council,
the YMCA of Middletown,
and other community leaders.

**Sunday, January 18, 2026
4PM | Doors open at 3:30PM
THE CENTER FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS
6 Liberty Street, Middletown, NY**

This event brings the community together with music, poetry, dance, and words of inspiration to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commemorate the impact that he had on this nation.

Refreshments will be served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maximillian Mezettin at (P) 347 869 5316 or (E) mmezettin@middletownymca.org.

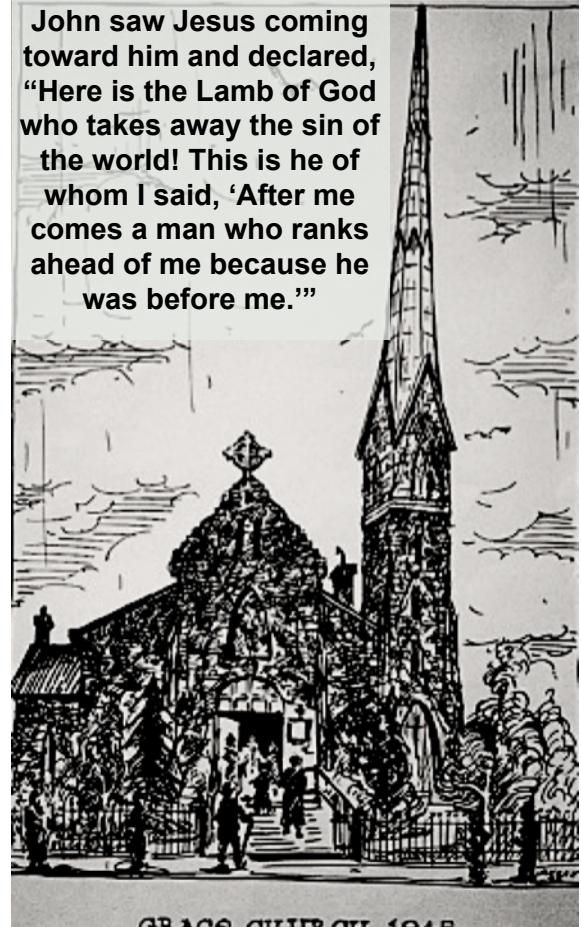


**SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT
WWW.MIDDLETOWNYMCA.ORG/GMIC**





John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'"



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:

Phyllis Guardino

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)