

February 8, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany February 8th (Rite I)



**"In all things that are purely social
we can be as separate as the
fingers, yet one as the hand in all
things essential to mutual
progress."**

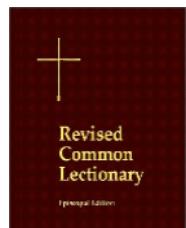
~Booker T. Washington, author and politician

Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Torry Guardino
NT Lector	Phyllis Guardino
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Mark Strunsky

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 February 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday February 11th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday February 15th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Monday February 16th	Presidents' Day Holiday - Office Closed
Tuesday February 17th	5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Potluck and Burning of Palms
Wednesday February 18th	Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Healing Mass with imposition of ashes 7:00 PM Mass with imposition of ashes
Friday February 20th	6:30 Stations of the Cross
Sunday February 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

The Photography Corner



This week's photograph was sent to us by Father Victor. He took this picture of the seal show at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic CT. Thank you Father Vic!

I would like to thank all who have shared photographs with us. I do need some more photographs if you could send a few. ~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.

I recall a song about angels
and feathers gathering in small corners
and unexpected places, and I ask this
question:
Where am I?
I wake at the cold dark edge of this day;
I fall back into familiar routines
to find my voice and to lose my voice.
I fall back- apart- I look

at all the pieces, scattered pieces,
mirrors and feathers, as I wait by the door.
It is very cold, very dark,
but I feel the heat rise in this old house,
and I leave the water dripping
so the pipes won't freeze-perhaps-
but I cannot really know.
Where am I?

~Eileen



LGBTQ+ task force invites survey input by March 15.

Episcopalians are invited to complete a 15- to 20-minute survey offered by the Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion to help the church better understand how it honors the dignity of all people and where work remains to be done.

The 80th General Convention established the task force in 2022, charging it with conducting an audit of how The Episcopal Church has lived into its public commitments affirming the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. A survey report will be shared with the 82nd General Convention in 2027.

Members across the church—those who are LGBTQ+ and those who are not—are encouraged to share about their experiences with pastoral care, sacramental access, representation in leadership, and institutional accountability.

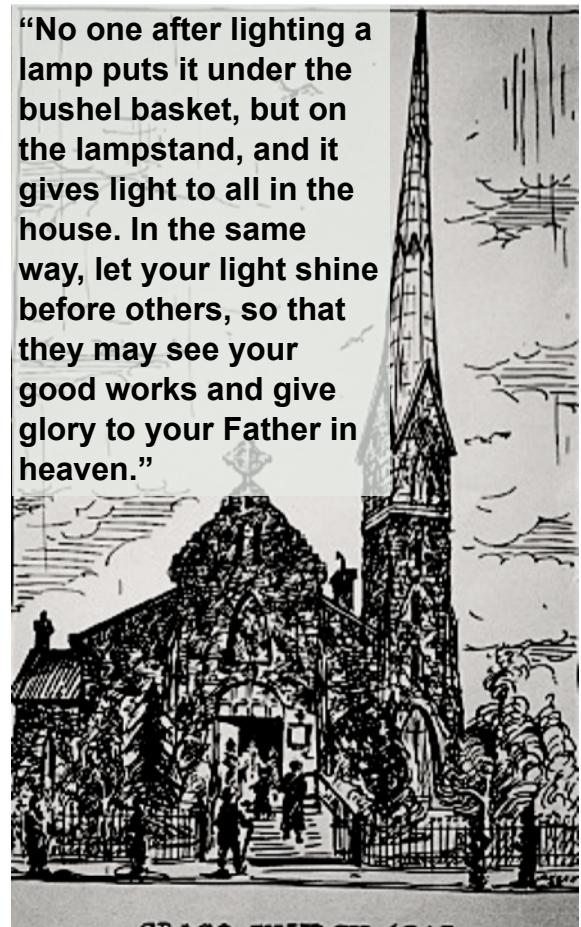
[Take Survey](#)

SHROVE TUESDAY

Traditionally, Grace Church has held a Shrove Tuesday dinner for our parish, followed by the burning of palms, which are used on Ash Wednesday. This year, the dinner will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the GSM Director's office. 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. Feel free to call me with questions. ~Joe



“No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”



Vestry News

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

[Click here to read the minutes of the December 21, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the November 16, 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)