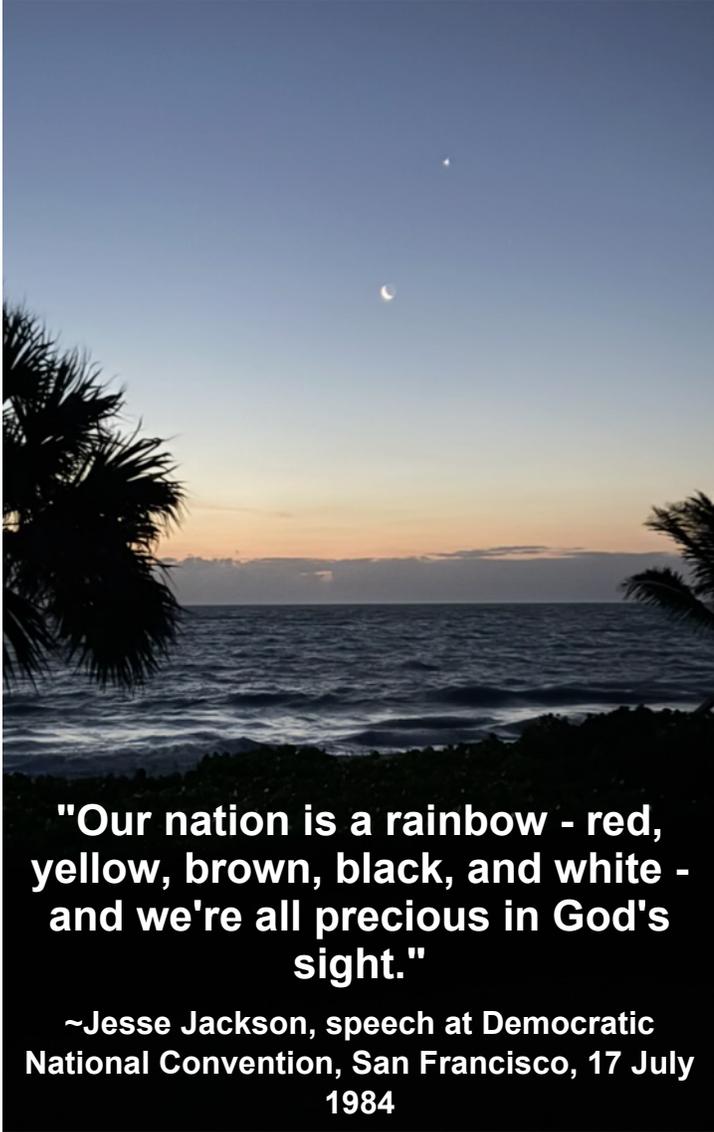


February 22, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
 email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

First Sunday in Lent February 22nd (Rite I)



"Our nation is a rainbow - red, yellow, brown, black, and white - and we're all precious in God's sight."

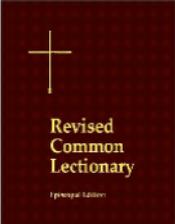
~Jesse Jackson, speech at Democratic National Convention, San Francisco, 17 July 1984

Subdeacon/Chalice	Allison McLean
MC/2nd Chalice	Marlene Presley
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Janet Cusack
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Connie Herm
NT Lector	Charlotte Durma
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Mark Strunsky Rick Scott 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/Calendar2026.html>

The "Board Room Cinema"

will open on Saturday, February 21 at 3 pm with a showing of "Chocolat". The movie stars Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp, Alfred Molina & Judi Dench. Synopsis: "Single mother Vianne Rocher and her young daughter arrive in a rural French town in the winter of 1959, and open an unusual chocolate shop (just after Shrove Tuesday)



that disrupts the moral fiber of the strictly Catholic townsfolk and mayor." In English. Running time 2 hours & 1 minute. The Boyers give it 4 thumbs up. Popcorn will be served. Bring your own beverage. No

admission charge. Please RSVP to Don Boyer cdboyer@optonline.net, 914-443-9423.

Second Sunday in Lent March 1st (Rite II)

Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	Claire Newquist
Crucifer	Savannah Spisso
Acolyte	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
OT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
NT Lector	Lourdes Cruz
Intercessor	Rick Scott
Ushers	Rick Scott John Cusack Volunteers

There will be no Epistle next week while Eileen and I are out of town. The next Epistle will be on Sunday March 8th. ~Joe

2026 Lenten Worship Services

Friday February 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday February 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday March 6th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 13th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
HOLY WEEK:	
Sunday March 29th	9:00 AM Palm Sunday Eucharist Rite II
Thursday April 2nd	7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Mass followed by the vigil at the Altar of Repose
Friday April 3rd	7:00 PM Good Friday Mass
Saturday April 4th	8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter Rite II
Sunday April 5th	9:00 AM Easter Sunday Eucharist Rite I

Upcoming Events

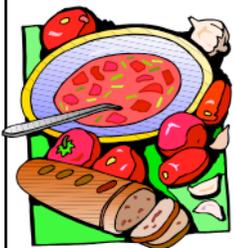
Friday February 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Saturday February 21st	3:00 PM "Chocolat" in the Grace Boardroom
Sunday February 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday February 25th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday February 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Sunday March 1st	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Friday March 6th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)



The Photography Corner

This week's photograph was also taken by Pam Mather-Cathy. Thank you Pam for both of your beautiful photographs!

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 wake, one breath before the alarm,
wake from a dream half remembered.

Images slip back into sleep beyond my
reach.

I try to make sense of what is forgotten in
the day,

what seemed so clear in the night.

Dreams hum a faint melody in my ear,
a few notes, but I cannot sing the dream
song.

So I rise; I listen to birds calling their
songs.

I watch one bird fly to the gray horizon
then disappear. I stretch my arms and legs,

wondering about the ache and pain of
living,

of forgetting, and I let go of the dream,

checking for feathers and wings

as I wonder into this day.

~Eileen

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH  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

This past Tuesday, we held our annual Shrove Tuesday Potluck Dinner followed by the burning of palm. With a large and delicious selection of entrees and desserts, nobody went home hungry! ~Joe





Grace Calendar

Vestry News

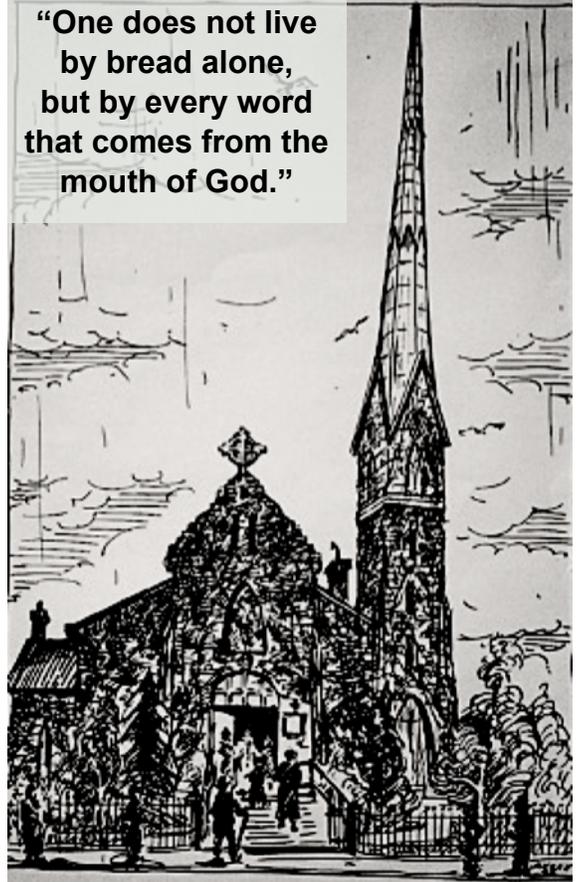
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday March 15th starting at 11:15 AM.

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.](#)

“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”



GRACE CHURCH 1945

Your Grace Church Vestry.

Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

Clerk of the Vestry:

Treasurer:

Kathleen Hamilton

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)