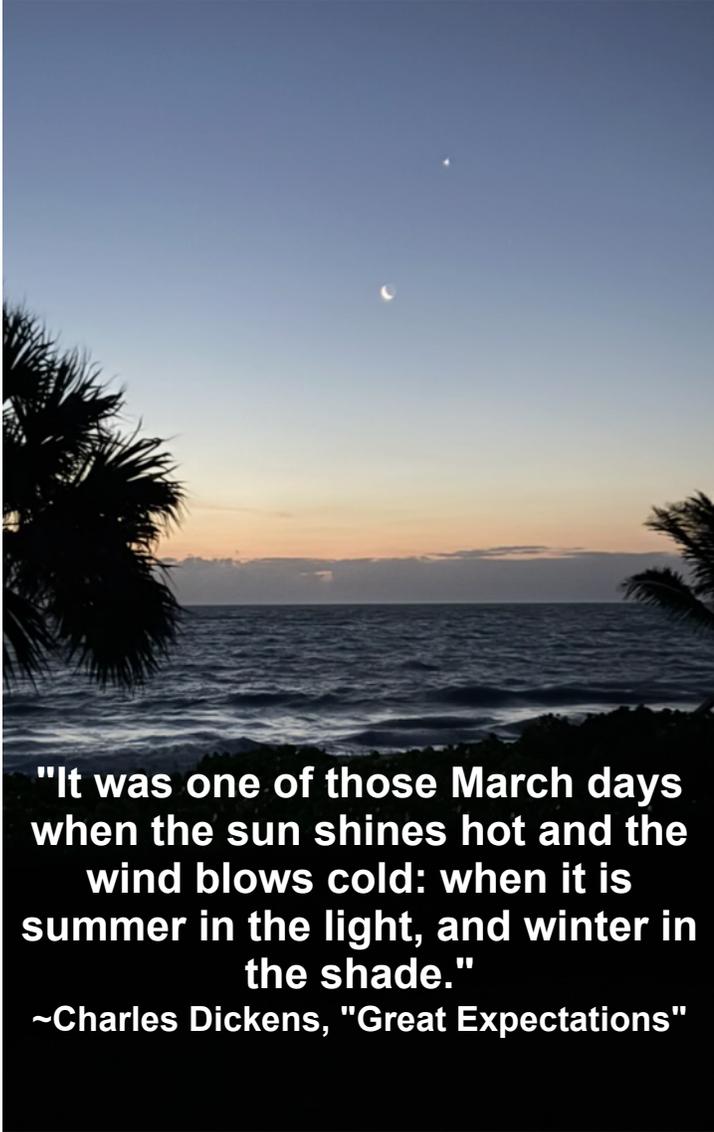


March 15, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
 email [secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com)

## *Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15th (Rite II)*



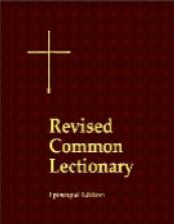
**"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."  
 ~Charles Dickens, "Great Expectations"**

Subdeacon/Chalice	Phyllis Guardino
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Thurifer	Torry Guardino
Crucifer	David Brokaw
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	David White
OT Lector	Charlotte Durma
NT Lector	Rick Scott
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Eileen Barrett Joseph Barrett Mark Strunsky John Cusack

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

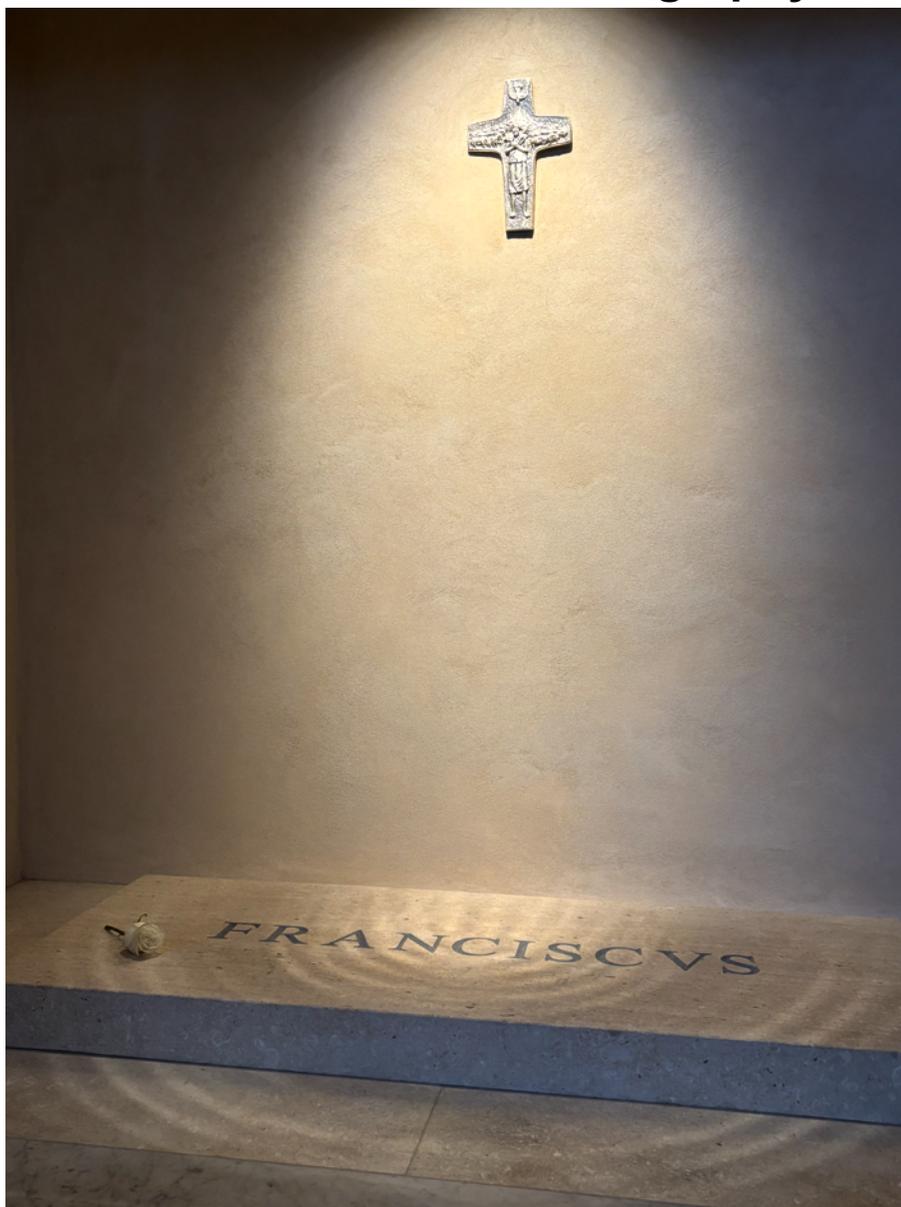
The webpage is in calendar form - just click on the date and you will see the readings for that day.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2026.html>

## Upcoming Events

Friday March 13th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 15th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Wednesday March 18th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday March 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday March 25th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday March 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Sunday March 29th	Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Eucharist (Rite II)

## The Photography Corner



This week's photograph was sent to us by Claire Newquist. She took this photo of Pope Francis' tomb in the Basilica of St Mary Major on a recent trip to Italy. In her words, it was "a simple tomb for a simple priest."

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

## Mystic Poets Society

This week's submission 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.

The alarm wakes me this dark morning;  
I do not want to get out of bed.  
I pause and ponder  
yesterday, today, all our days,  
losing balance, falling back,  
leaning in against your body,  
wondering if this could be  
the last Ash Wednesday,  
the last ashes on our foreheads,  
the dust of our bodies returning to dust.  
In the quiet evening church  
one child shakes her head  
refusing the ashes, falling back into  
her mother's welcome embrace,  
then walking away, her way.

I walk on and lean in to receive ashes,  
welcoming the dust, the body, the blood.  
I walk away, not quite sure where to go.  
Another morning comes;  
I rise and stretch, turn on one light,  
and wipe yesterday's ashes from my  
forehead.  
Time to begin again. Here I am and  
I am here, searching through a forest of  
words,  
stumbling, lost and found at daybreak.  
An unexpected flock of geese  
calls into the growing light, a new story.  
And the sun rises behind the clouds  
of this new day.  
~Eileen

### 2026 Lenten Worship Services

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
<b>HOLY WEEK:</b>	
Sunday March 29th	9:30 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	10:00 AM Easter Sunday Eucharist Rite II

## Easter Flowers



Each Easter the flowers on the altar and around the church are donated in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us. If you would like to have someone remembered in the Easter Flower Bulletin, please complete one of the Flower envelopes that are in the pews and in other locations around the church. You should include your name, the name(s) of those who you are remembering, and your donation for the flowers. If you are not in church to complete an Flower envelope, please send your information via email to [secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com) or call the church office, 845-343-6101, and leave a message. In order to complete the Bulletin, we need your information by Monday, March 30th. If you have any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the Parish Office at 845-343-6101.

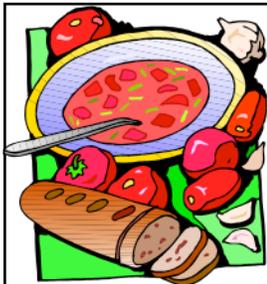


EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
*LISTENING HEARTS*

**Vocations Day:**  
**Listening Hearts Retreat**

**Christ Episcopal Church,  
Poughkeepsie  
Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



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.

# **TRICKY TRAY 2026**

Now that we have you all thinking about baskets you can make or gift cards you can solicit or other items that you might want to contribute as “prizes” for our Tricky Tray, its time to remind you of other ways that you can help with this important event.

First and perhaps most important, we need you to help us advertise the Tricky Tray. Just to remind you, it will take place on Saturday, April 18th. Our doors will open at 1:00 pm with calling beginning at 3 pm. Admission will be \$10, with children under 12 free. Each admission comes with one ticket sheet which includes a door prize ticket. Additional ticket sheets will be available at \$5/sheet or 5 for \$20. There will be separate tickets for our special prizes (\$5/ticket) and tickets for a 50/50 drawing (\$2/ticket and 6 for \$10) available for purchase.

In a few weeks, we will have road signs for you to take and put up in high traffic locations. In the meantime, there are fliers available for you to take and post around town or give to your friends and family. We also encourage you to talk to people about the Tricky Tray and let them know what a fun event it is.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, need fliers or want to give us some suggestions, please see a member of the Fundraising Committee: Mark Strunsky, Anne Caldwell, Barbara Chumard, David White, Malinda and Jim Niper, Sue Scott and Claire Newquist.

With your help, we can make this another memorable event!

## **KEYS**

Are you like me with miscellaneous keys on your key ring, or in your purse (or pocket), or on your dresser or in that key basket near the back door? Do you know what they open? If you do have one or a bunch of mysterious keys that might open (or once have opened) a door at church, you might be able to help us.

We are trying to create a record of what keys open what locks around the church and parish house. We'd also like to have a record of who has the keys to these locks, and whether or not they still need them. In order to help with this project, we are asking you to bring in keys—the ones that you can't identify—in an envelope with your name on it. We'll then take a look, test them, and let you know if they are for any of our locks.

If you have church keys, and you know what they open, just give us a list of the locks that you have keys too, with your name and whether they are keys that you still need.

This should give us a good start in developing a master list of keys holders.

Thank you for your help with this project. If you have any questions, please speak to Father Victor, John Cusack, Claire Newquist or Joe Barrett.



THE BISHOP OF NEW YORK

*March 10, 2026*

We strongly support legislation introduced by Assembly Member Micah Lasher and Senator Robert Jackson ([S4121/A8139](#)) to protect individuals from civil arrest at sensitive locations—houses of worship, schools, hospitals, and libraries.

Houses of worship, schools, hospitals, and community-based service providers are sacred and essential spaces where our neighbors seek healing, learning, nourishment, and spiritual support. These spaces must remain safe and accessible to everyone, without fear.

Across faith traditions, we share moral responsibility to uphold the dignity of every person and to offer communities of safe belonging. The Episcopal Diocese of New York is a sanctuary Diocese. Our 172 congregations open their doors every day to their communities and welcome everyone, regardless of immigration status. Over the last year, our congregations have tried to support their neighbors who are afraid.

This legislation would establish clear protections and prevent ICE from entering sensitive locations like schools and dormitories without proper judicial authorization.

We appreciate the Governor's championing of protection for sensitive locations in her initial budget proposal.

We also believe it's important to include a defined 1,000-foot boundary around sensitive locations. This buffer is especially critical for many of our institutions, where services like food pantries often extend beyond the walls of our buildings, with lines forming outside. A boundary would also bring the proposed law more in alignment with the rescinded federal "sensitive locations" policy, which prohibited ICE activity, including staging and surveillance, "in and around" houses of worship.

New York State has long been a leader in advancing policies that protect vulnerable communities and uphold fundamental rights.

We urge you to continue that leadership by passing this legislation and ensuring that all New Yorkers can connect with life-giving communities without fear.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hoffman".

*Bishop of New York*



**Grace Calendar**

### **Vestry News**

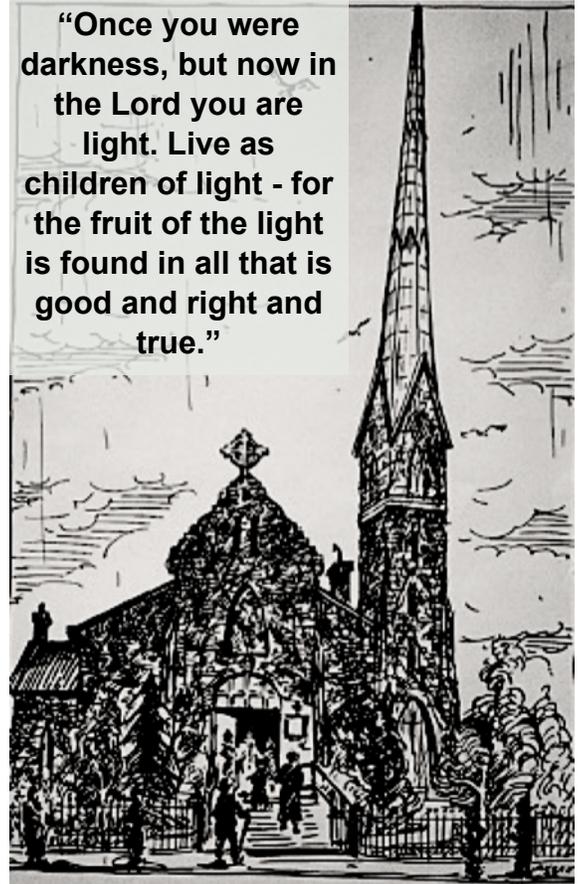
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday March 15th starting at 11:15 AM.

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 January 25, 2026 Vestry meeting.](#)

“Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.”



GRACE CHURCH 1948

## **Your Grace Church Vestry.**

### **Wardens:**

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

*Clerk of the Vestry:*

*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)