



GRACE
Episcopal Church

December 2022

Service Times

Holy Eucharist, Rite II on
Sunday at 11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I on
Wednesday at 7:30 am

Bible Study on
Wednesday at 11:00 am

Prayers for Healing on
Wednesday at 12:00 pm
with bag lunch following

THE MISSION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Gather in Christ, grow in
faith, and love our
neighbors*

THE VISION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Be a home where people can
connect with their faith,
to be in harmony with self,
others and God.*

The Way

My dear People,

Welcome to a new year of grace in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church! As of writing we have celebrated the first Sunday of Advent. This season, as some of you perhaps know, is my favorite in the Kalendar. It asks us to meditate on some of the most profound mysteries of the Christian life and sanctifies a time (at least in our hemisphere) replete already with a sacred ambiance. The traditional "Four Last Things" of Advent: Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell are serious and sobering, while our hopefulness to welcome in the birth of the Christ Child brings untold joy. I relish in that complexity. Beautiful things, and therefore True, are the ones which wed those sorts of things together.

At our Advent Quiet Day, we will take time together in order to withdraw and sit with some of them, aided by the gifts God has given His Church to draw closer. The recitation of Morning Prayer, the offering of the holy sacrifice of the Mass, opportunity for sacramental confession and adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, these are all tools that expand our spiritual horizons. But they stand as a buttress to our real purpose: to listen in silence to what God has to say to us.

During Advent perhaps then the prayer of the Prophet Samuel should be our ready tool. "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Those who listened to the Lord in the centuries before the arrival of Jesus heard of a promise that God would "bruise the serpent's head", that the cycle of sin, shame, and death would at last be over, that all of the hopes



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Sheron Drennen
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Articles for the January 2023 edition of *The Way* are due to the office by Monday, December 19, 2022.

All articles should be emailed to the Parish Administrator at gracechurchsec@verizon.net.

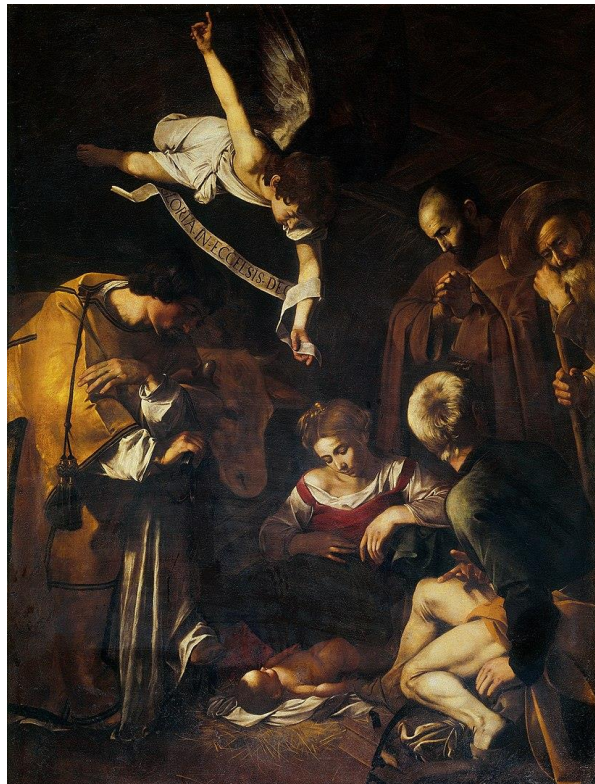
of God's people would finally be fulfilled. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem this began. But now those who call on Him as Savior wait for Him to come again and then as the righteous Judge. On that day, when He returns, whatever is evil, whatever is false, whatever causes undue hurt, whatever brings tears will be overturned and we will at last “meet Him in the air” and be as He is and we will praise Him.

The truths of this time are awe-some, they overturn our suppositions about our world and ourselves. Does life seem out of sorts? Do we wonder where God is in the midst of the world’s suffering? Will it all just continue this way indefinitely? The celebration of Our Lord’s Advent, both once at Bethlehem and yet again in the world to come, definitively says “No.” The trumpet shall sound, the dead shall be raised, and we shall be changed. Friends, hold on to this hope. Let nothing dissuade you from the Truth. By sending His Son, God has already passed sentence. From out of the crucible of fire you will inherit a new world. Every atom will sing *Te Deum* and the Lord’s joy will be ours in full. And we will be one with Him even as He is one with Our Heavenly Father. *Laus deo!*

At this most sacred time, I remain,

Your Friend and Pastor,

The Rev’d John M.W. Conner



December 2022 Calendar

December 3

8:30 am to 12:00 pm
Advent Quiet Day

December 4

2 Advent
11:00 am Worship

December 7

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

December 10

12:00 to 4:00 pm ECW
Christmas Luncheon @
Uno's Neshaminy

December 11

3 Advent
11:00 am Worship
Hanging of the Greens –
following the service

December 13

7:00 pm Property Mtg

December 14

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

December 18

4 Advent
11:00 am Worship

December 2022 A.D.

Kalendar and Intentions

December is the Month of the Holy Nativity

1. Advent Feria
2. Advent Feria
3. S. Francis Xavier, P.
- 4. Advent II**Pro Populo
5. Advent Feria
6. S. Nicholas, B.
7. S. Ambrose, B & D.....Archdiocese of Milan
- 8. Immaculate Conception BVM**.....The Society of Mary
9. S. Juan Diego, HM
10. Our Lady of Loreto
- 11. Advent III**.....Pro Populo
12. Our Lady of Guadalupe
13. S. Lucy, V & M
14. S. John of the Cross, P & D.....Contemplative Vocations
15. Advent Feria
16. Advent Feria
17. Advent Feria
- 18. Advent IV**.....Pro Populo
19. Advent Feria
20. Advent Feria
21. Advent Feria.....The Shrine at Walsingham
22. Advent Feria
23. Advent Feria
24. Advent Feria
- 25. Nativity OLJC**
26. S. Stephen, M.
27. S. John, Ap & Ev
28. Holy Innocents, Mm
29. S. Thomas Becket, M
30. Holy Family
31. S. Sylvester, Po

Anglican Curiosities

In some of the Kalendars in our Communion we also find being observed:

December 1st: Nicholas Ferrar, HM

December 2022 Calendar continued

December 21

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

December 24

Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Worship

December 25

Christmas Day
10:00 am Worship,
no music

December 26

Office closed

December 27

Office closed

December 28

12:00 pm Noon Prayer

December 29

Office closed

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Envelopes for memorial flowers (red poinsettias on the envelope) can be found on the table in the hallway for anyone who wishes to have flowers in remembrance of loved ones for Christmas. Flower memorials can also be sent to the church office, please indicate who the flowers are in memory of and who is giving them. Please mark your check as "Christmas Flowers". **Flower memorials must be submitted to the office no later than Sunday, December 18.** The flower memorials received by 12/18 will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be on Saturday, December 10th from 12:00 to 4:00 pm at UNO's at the Neshaminy Mall. If you plan to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway and indicate if you will need a ride.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

On Sunday, December 11th, decorating the church for Christmas (Hanging of the Greens) will be done after the 11:00 am service. We will decorate the windows and altar with greens and put up two trees. We will then put the poinsettias on the altar. If you have any greens or holly you can spare for the window decoration, please bring them to church with you that Sunday. This is a fun time for all and many hands make light work.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 24th. There will be a service Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

ANNUAL FLOWER AND CANDLE CALENDAR

On the wall outside the Sacristy door hangs the list of memorials or thanksgivings to be remembered for 2022. If you have someone you wish to have remembered or a thanksgiving please make sure it is written on the calendar as we will be setting up the 2023 calendar shortly. Any questions please see Joan Vurlicer or Bonnie Zanolini.

January 2023 Calendar

January 1

New Year's Day
11:00 am Worship

January 2

Office closed

January 4

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

January 6

Epiphany of our Lord
Jesus Christ

January 8

Epiphany (transferred)
11:00 am Worship
ECW Meeting

January 10

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

January 11

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

January 15

11:00 am Worship

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

It was great to be able to have the bazaar back this year after a 2-year hiatus. This year's bazaar was a great success, garnering \$3,180.00 for the General Fund. This event takes a lot of dedicated people to make it the success it is and while we can't name everyone, we thank you all. This year we had a new venture, a basket raffle. All church families were asked to donate a basket with a minimum value of \$30.00 or donate \$30.00 and we (Sue Horger) would shop and create a basket for them. The ECW would like to thank everyone for their participation in donating baskets and money to this new venture. We were hoping for 30 baskets and received over 50. This was an overwhelming response, thank you. *The ECW*

THE NATIVITY ROOM

Have you noticed that Classroom #2 has been transposed recently? It has become the "Nativity Room" – replete with several manger scenes representing a variety of ethnic themes throughout the world. Please stop by and check it out; stay a few minutes, if you wish, to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Meditate about the miracle of Christ's birth. The setting will remain in place throughout December and will be illuminated every Sunday morning before the service. Thank you from Doris Laino, Cathie Miller and Florence Collins (sister of Cathie) who worked together to create The Nativity Room.

UNITED WAY

Please consider giving – When families struggle through the holidays, there's a lot of help for young kids. The older ones aren't so lucky. They are often overlooked. That's why the United Way of Bucks County **Holiday Gift Card Drive** specifically serves teens and tweens in need. With your help, they can ensure that every local kid has a bright holiday – and most importantly doesn't feel alone. Visit uwbucks.org/giftcarddrive to donate or you may make out a check to "United Way of Bucks County" memo "Holiday Gift Card Drive" and put it in the plate and we will deliver it to their office at 413 Hood Boulevard, Fairless Hills, PA 19030 or you may mail it there. This is very worthy of your consideration this holy season. Thank you. *Lorna Campbell-Seely*

January 2023 Calendar continued

January 18

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

January 22

11:00 am Worship

January 25

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

January 29

11:00 am Worship

January 30

2:00 to 7:00 pm Red
Cross Blood Drive

VENDORS FOR RAFFLE PRIZES - 2022 BAZAAR

We are most grateful to the following vendors and businesses who donated prizes that were awarded during our Christmas Bazaar raffle. Altogether we received 25 donations, including our own ECW who contributed the \$500 grand prize, which was won by Bean Bealer. Your participation in purchasing tickets is much appreciated.

Please consider supporting these businesses who made our raffle such a wonderful success, and congratulations to the winners!

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>
Apollo's Family Pizza.....	\$50 in Gift Cards
Bensalem Beer & Soda.....	\$25 Gift Card
Bristol Riverside Theatre..... 2 Admission Tickets, Choice of Plays
Buckingham Valley Vineyard.....	Wine Gift Set
Bucks County River Country	2 Rafting Passes
Giant-Middletown	\$25 Gift Card
Hong Luck	\$50 in Gift Cards
Hulmeville Inn.....	\$75 in Gift Cards
Italian People's Bakery	\$20 Gift Card
Just Because...Flowers – Bensalem.....Floral Arrangement and Gift Certificate
La Mirage Hair & Spa-Bensalem..... Gift Basket and Gift Certificate
Longwood Gardens	2-Guest Tickets
Mercer Museum/Fonthill.....	2 Passes-\$15 Each
Metro Diner-Bensalem	2-\$25 Gift Cards, 2 Tees, 2 Mugs
Mignoni Jewelers-Bristol	Watch-Value \$150
Museum of the American Revolution	2 Tickets
National Constitution Center.....	4 Passes
Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre.....4 Passes - "Addams Family"
Newportville Inn.....	\$50 in Gift Cards
Philadelphia Eagles	Lane Johnson Autographed Picture
Philadelphia Flyers	Autographed Puck-Morgan Frost
Philadelphia Phillies Autographed Baseball Cap - Bryson Stott
Shadybrook Farm	\$50 Voucher
Under the Pier-Levittown.....	\$30 Gift Card

February 2023 Calendar

February 1

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

February 5

11:00 am Worship
Annual Meeting following
the 11 am service

February 8

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer

February 12

11:00 am Worship
ECW Meeting

February 14

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

February 15

7:30 am Worship
11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Noon Prayer
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

February 19

Last Epiphany
11:00 am Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whenever we have visitors to the church, they always complement how well we maintain the church. Unfortunately, no amount of maintenance will correct one flaw. The church is an acoustical black hole. Without amplification the average voice does not carry. This is important especially to those of the congregation with hearing issues. After 65, it is estimated that some degree of hearing loss will effect 60% of the population. Did you know that men are twice as likely as women to lose their hearing. I am not talking about the selective hearing loss, where we hear only what we want. Most of us lose our hearing within specific frequency ranges. Hearing aids really do make a difference, although it is estimated that only 30% of the population that would benefit from them use them. I personally am considered profoundly deaf without mine, but they are not a panacea. Even with them in I still struggle to hear certain vocal ranges. With me, I would categorize it as tenor voiced males and soprano voice females. On top of the reduced hearing I suffer from Tinnitus. I hear noise that I can best describe as refrigerator compressor in my right ear and a fan type noise in my left. It really complicate my ability to decipher what is being said to me.

About now, your probably asking so what? Well every time someone in the congregation stands up to make an announcement, there is a better than average chance I will not hear enough to understand your message. I am betting, that I am not the only person struggling to hear. Consider asking Sheron to put your message in the bulletin or Way. If that's not possible please come up to the front of the church, face the congregation, take a deep breath and speak in a loud voice. Being able to see your lips at least helps me. Hopefully we won't have to go back to wearing masks. Thank you, *Bob Grow*

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Grace will hold its annual blood drive on Monday, January 30th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Please put this date on your calendar. A sign-up sheet for appointments will be put up on the door between the restrooms in January 2023. Volunteers will also be making calls to make appointments. *Diane McKairnes*

February 2023 Calendar continued

February 22

Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Imposition of
Ashes

12:00 pm Imposition of
Ashes

February 26

First Sunday in Lent

11:00 am Worship

THANK YOU

The onset of Covid provided people opportunities to serve and worship in ways they never dreamt of before the pandemic. The need to present the services to a congregation that couldn't attend in person was something unimagined. Fortunately, within our congregation we have a very imaginative individual. Now that the video recording and broadcasting of the service is on pause, I thought it a good time to thank Al Van Dine. Al possesses a combination of computer skills and a willingness to research how best to record and present the service. You see him week after week setting up the computer and camera and recording the service, but trust me when I say this is just a small tip of the time he spends in researching, editing, equipment acquisition and umpteen Facebook upgrades. If we gave out a Grace Church Academy Award, it would certainly have his name on it. Thank you Al! *Bob Grow*

THEME LUNCHEON

The ECW would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with donating auction items, volunteering to host a table and inviting their guests, helping to set up and clean up, making food, helping on the kitchen, and coming to support us. It was a fun day. It takes a village to prepare and run these events. Thanks to your generosity, we made \$1,384.15. The *ECW of Grace*

SEAMANS INSTITUTE

Thank you to all who contributed to the Seamans Institute Ditty Bag program. All of the donations were delivered to them, along with the monetary donations we received. Seamans Institute was most appreciative. The *ECW of Grace*

CHURCH PLATES

A couple of weeks ago the church office received an email offering to return two 1960 Grace Church plates. One of the two plates is identical to the plate in Fr. John's office. If you would be interested in one of the two plates, please contact the church office. We will keep a list of names of those interested and if necessary, pull names to determine the recipient of each plate. – *Sheron Drennen*

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports are due to the church office no later than 9:00 am on Monday, January 23rd. Please submit all reports to the Parish Administrator at gracechurchsec@verizon.net. Grace's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023, following the 11 am service. *Sheron Drennen*

MARY'S CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous support of Mary's Cupboard food pantry.

Below is a list of items that are currently needed.

Canned peas	Tissues
Spaghetti o's	Paper Towels
Canned Chicken	Clothes washing detergent
1 lb bags of white rice	

We have a LARGE quantity of peanut butter so we will not be in need of any. Thank you.

Any questions contact *Sonja Norton* 215-946-7559.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 – Advent Retreat

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 10 – ECW Christmas Luncheon @ Uno's

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent &
Hanging of the Greens

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 – Christmas Eve service at 5 pm

December 25 – Christmas Day service at 10 am

December 26 – Office Closed

December 27 – Office Closed

December 29 – Office Closed

January 1, 2023 -New Year's Day service at 11 am

January 2, 2023 – Office Closed

January 8, 2023 – Epiphany (transferred from 1/6/23)

January 30, 2023 – Red Cross Blood Drive

February 5, 2023 – Annual Meeting

February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2023 -First Sunday in Lent

Vestry Leadership

Senior Warden:

Bob Miller (215) 788-2972

Junior Warden:

Leon Horger
(215) 788-0720

Treasurer:

Langhorne Tax &
Bookkeeping

Building Treasurer:

Al Van Dine
(215) 943-1572

Clerk of the Vestry:

Cathie Miller
(215) 788-2972

Ministry Teams

Communication:

Sheron Drennen

Pastoral Care:

Doris Laino

Vestry Members:

Dennis Hickey,
Leon Horger,
David Jackson,
Bob Miller,
Edgar Seely,
Al Van Dine,
Joan Vurlicer.

PRAYER LIST

Just a reminder that the Prayer List in the Sunday bulletin is for those who have an immediate, short-term need. These names will be listed in the bulletin for four weeks.

The Prayer List in the newsletter and Noon Prayer bulletin will contain the names of those who have a long-term illness. The names on these two lists will be removed after two months if no new information is provided (in writing). All prayer requests must be in writing and must be submitted by Tuesday morning to be included in the Sunday bulletin.
Sheron Drennen

PRAYER LIST FOR DECEMBER

Alicia	Evan
Brian	Jim
Mrs. Casella	Pat
Charis	Robert
Charles V	Ryon C
Christine A	Shirley H
Dawn	Suzie
Dylan	

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

8 - Marcia McCullough
18 - Alice Strack
27 - Jeffrey Vurlicer
30 - Fred Birnbaum

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

