

Sunday, April 5th
Palm Sunday

In accordance with Bishop Dietsche's suspension of all public worship services throughout the diocese, Grace Church will only be live streaming our 10:30 worship service until the current national emergency is lifted. This is a difficult time for all of us, and our church and parish family helps us to cope with the uncertainties of the world around us. While we cannot worship together physically, please join us in virtual worship on Sunday.



**"For He shall give His angels
charge over thee, to keep thee
in all thy ways."**

Psalm 91:11
King James Version



Use our audio mixer to listen to the
10:30 Sunday Mass live.

[Just Click Here!](#)



To follow the Mass you can
[Click Here](#) for an online version of
the Palm Sunday Prayer Bulletin with
readings.



Revised
Common
Lectionary

Episcopal Edition

NEW 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/Calendar2020.html>

Upcoming Events

Palm Sunday April 5th 10:30 AM Mass Online
(links can be found on the first page of this Epistle)



**Grace
Church
Calendar**

Grace Church Bulletin Board

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche offers a reflection on the Old Testament lesson for Wednesday in the Fifth Week of Lent - the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the three youths whom the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar had cast into a burning fiery furnace.

[TO WATCH THE VIDEO CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to add somebody to the Prayers For The People, please email Claire at **cnewquist@frontiernet.net**

As the COVID-19 emergency continues, the Guild of St. Margaret finds itself in need of volunteers to help serve the take out lunches during the week. If you are unable to work but would like to help feed those in need, please email Phyllis at **soupkitchen-grace@msn.com** or call her at 845-344-0569. Thank-you.

If, during this current emergency, you have any issues or concerns or know of another parishioner with issues or concerns please contact: **[\(click on a name to email that person\)](#)**

[Fr. Victor](#) **845-343-7986**

[Claire](#) **845-344-7885**

[Joe](#) **845-386-2555**

A Message to the People of the Diocese of New York from the Bishop of New York, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche.

[To Watch The Video Click Here](#)



My Dear Family of Grace Episcopal Church,

First, so no one continues being too worried about my health situation, let me tell you that I feel great! When I arrived for my “drive-through” COVID-19 test, the nurse was very kind. She checked my temperature (normal), checked my heart rate (normal) and listen to my lungs (which were clear), this gave me the most comfort of all. I should get the results in another four more days and I am optimistic because I continue to feel well.

I want to express a special thank you for the crew that led our webcast service last Sunday: Michael Saunders, Lisa DeNisco, Claire Newquist, Torry Guardino and Mark Strunsky. I was truly moved by your ministry and I know I am not the only person who is deeply grateful. Thank you!

Passion/Palm Sunday is coming up quickly, on April 5. I have drafted a service for that day from the perspective of making a good audio broadcast. We will use the familiar readings for the day. Beginning with Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11), a short passage from one of the prophet Isaiah’s “suffering servant songs” (Isaiah 50:4-9), continuing with the famous Philippians hymn, (Philippians 2:5-11), and concluding with a dramatic reading of Matthews passion (Matthew 27:11-54). Of course, we will not bless palm branches or have any kind of procession. In addition, we will continue using the spiritual Communion as we did last Sunday. We are working on making a service bulletin easily available to you on Sunday. Watch for more information in the upcoming “Epistle.”

You might remember me mentioning that the Philippians Hymn is one of my favorite Scripture passages. Here it is from the New Revised Standard Version:

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The first thing, which catches my attention, is the love and humility of Christ Jesus. Jesus personally taking on our human experience: fears and joys, including a horrific death. Nothing in our experience, not even fears of a contagious disease are foreign to Jesus. Remember there are many gospel stories, which describe how lepers and folks suffering from skin diseases, were kept at a safe distance. Jesus always reached out to them with healing and compassion. He has been through it all and will accompany us on our journey through “social distancing” and quarantine.

The hymn text goes on to describe the glory owed to Jesus for his great saving deeds. However, this is also a reminder of the life we have with him in that place and time of glory. Such is our Savior, embracing human hardship and giving divine life.

As we move through holy week in this strange pandemic reality, let us never forget that the love of Christ is always within us. Waiting for us simply to reach out in prayer and embrace the gift.

May you be blessed with peace in your heart and wellness in your body.

Victor +

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Thanks to Connie Clarkson (See Exodus 7-12) 03-26-2012

I'VE GOT YOU DOWN FOR BLOOD, FROGS,
LICE, LOCUSTS AND HAIL ... WOULD YOU
LIKE ANY FLIES WITH THAT?

Requiesce in pace

It is with deep regret that Grace Church announces the death of long-time parishioner Peg Claster. She had an ever present smile and was always ready to lend a hand where needed. Peg devoted much of her life to educating young children. She will truly be missed.



Photo left: Crafte Faire 2018 High Tea preparations.



Vestry News

There will be no Vestry Meetings until further notice. The Vestry will continue to work during this crisis by email and/or remote meetings as needs arise.

To read the highlights of the December 19, 2019 Vestry meeting, click here.

To read the highlights of the January 16, 2020 Vestry meeting, click here.



Photo by Jamie Smith, Middletown NY

Your Grace Church Vestry

Wardens

Joseph Barrett

Clerk of the Vestry

Bill Gunn

Claire Newquist

Treasurer

Janet Cusack

Vestry

Lourdes Cruz

Joseph Gayton

John Cusack

Allison McLean

Anne Caldwell

Connie Herm

Sue Scott

Pepe Gutierrez

During these times, please remember all of those companies who have helped Grace Church by donating to our various events. Below is a listing of the donors who have given to Grace. If you can, and they are open, please consider supporting them during these difficult times as a way of saying "thank you."

~ The Fundraising Committee

Absolutely Flowers
430 State Route 211W
Middletown NY 10940

Carlo's Pizzeria & Bar
295 Waywayanda Ave.
Middletown, NY
845-775-4662

Carvel
130 Dolson Ave.
Middletown, NY 10940

Colandrea Pizza
362 Route 211 East
Middletown, NY 10940

Copper Barn
368 E Main St
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 381-1400

Crystal Run Spa
1 N. Galleria Drive #D103
Middletown, NY 10941
845-645-3145

DeStefano's Olde Erie
7 West Main Street
Middletown, NY 10940
845-344-3743

DiFillipis Bakery
26 East Main Street
Middletown, NY 10940
845 343 1321

Holy Dog
44 West Main St
Middletown, NY 10940

Home Depot
474 Route 211 E
Middletown, NY 10940

Hannaford
30 Tower Drive
Middletown NY
845-695-1800

J's Place
39 W Main St,
Middletown, NY 10940
845-467-4156

Italian Pork Store
130 Dolson Ave,
Middletown, NY 10940

Oak & Reed
45-53 North St
Middletown, NY 10940

Olive Garden
200 N Galleria Dr
Middletown, NY 10941
845-692-8232

Perfume World
1 Galleria Dr
Middletown, NY 10941

Price Chopper
511 Schutt Rd
Middletown, NY 10940

Q Collections
1 Galleria Dr
Middletown, NY 10941

Quinnz Pinz
13-19 Railroad Ave
Middletown, NY 10940
845-313-3616

Saffron
130 Dolson Ave
Middletown, NY 10940
845-344-0005

Something Sweet
17 North Street
Middletown NY 10940

Texas Roadhouse
390 Route 211 East
Middletown, NY 10940

Tire Discount Center
76 Dolson Ave.
Middletown, NY 10940
845-342-2036

Vineyards
10 Tower Drive
Middletown, NY 10941
845-692-9077

Wash Co.
1020 Dolsontown RD
Middletown, NY 10940