

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 5 Number 2

February 2025



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

John 1:5 (NRSV)

Here’s a debate I have within myself: what are the best times for Christianity? Times of bounty and harvest? Or times of struggle and need? I know what I prefer: the good times, economically, politically, culturally, socially, etc. But here’s what my personal experience tells me, especially as a New Orleanian struggling for years after Katrina and as a priest leading a parish through COVID — the best times for Christianity are when we are walking the Christian walk during hard, existential times, living the faith of loving one another as Jesus loved us (John 15:12).

When life is easy, everything is good. Everything. At best during these times, Christianity seems old-fashioned; at worst, Christianity appears (especially to the young) downright irrelevant. When life gets hard, though, Christianity distinguishes itself. For unlike many of the fads, trends, shallow pep-talk marketing, and other thin-skinned gimmicks that proliferate during easy times, during hard times, it takes effort, courage, and sacrifice to do the right thing. And what is the right thing? As Jesus taught:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40).

Let’s continue our tradition of being honest with one another: the sun is setting and the days grow grey. I fear they will grow far darker still into a long winter night. The good news is that The Good News never shines as bright as during hard times... IF we live the faith. Nothing grows the church, especially during hard times, like people seeing Christians actually living the

faith, caring for those in need, empowering the marginalized and the helpless, taking risks on behalf of others we do not even know. It may make wise, worldly sense to retreat and protect one's own self-interest during times of risk and potential attack, but that approach — which always becomes the majority position for those whose god is their own self and thus their own self-interest — isn't very moral. And it certainly isn't Christian.

I give enormous thanks to God that, in the merger of St. Paul's and Trinity Church into Grace Church Ossining, both congregational cultures had profound examples and commitments of sacrificial support to others in need. And I'm not talking about the little, helpful stuff that all churches do: collections and drives, bake sales, etc. Those are fine. I'm talking about the creation and launch of a church food pantry that then intentionally transitioned into a non-profit town food pantry and still was supported and housed by the church (Trinity). I'm talking about St. Paul's offering childcare in the 19th century, which developed into Ossining Children's Center. I know there are many more examples from both congregational histories— thanks be to God! — but as I have shared, the real reason the merger of a high Anglo-Catholic Rite 1 parish with a broad-church Rite 2 parish works is because, underneath those liturgical preferences, both parishes share the same worldview and values of what it means for Grace Church Ossining to be a Christian, Episcopal Church:

OUR MISSION

To love God is a call to action. Strengthened by prayer, worship, and study, Grace Church embraces and serves all people, the earth, and every living thing.

Amen! And thanks be to God!

In the coming days, we will discern together what other tools we need — hand warmers, blankets, sleeping bags, etc. — to get through this long, cold night. (Okay, enough of the winter night metaphor!) We shall also discern together how we can deploy our assets — money, people, space, diocese connections, local community partners, our faithfulness, etc. — best for those in need in Ossining. In the meantime, let's give thanks to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the opportunity during these hard times to not only contribute to but also to personally benefit from the meaningfulness, purposefulness, spiritual hope, and genuine difference-making that a life of compassion-in-action lived for others in need can bring to all.

Thanks be to God!

With love and prayers,

Faithfully,

Fr. Hal+

DEACON'S MESSAGE

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE



The new presidential administration has called for a staggering number of mass deportations — 11 million. While the debates continue on the logistics and funding for such an action, the deportations have started. While the political rhetoric says that it's criminals and bad actors who are being deported, the facts show that this is not the case. Vulnerable people, youths, and asylum seekers are also being deported.

At our book discussion on January 19, several of us have asked, "What can we do?" We will continue to discuss next steps. Meanwhile, those interested are urged to reach out to our representatives and tell them that you oppose mass deportations.

The Episcopal Church USA has an Office of Government Relations. There's a link [here](#) for their Action Alerts page, which offers information and suggested messages to use to contact your federal representatives about many issues, including mass deportations. You can use the suggested statement or replace it with your own. And if you fill in your address, the tool will find your representatives and send to them directly.

Last week, our Diocesan Bishop Matt Heyd declared that the Episcopal Diocese of New York is a Sanctuary Diocese. Our focus will be on welcoming asylum seekers and refugees. It is also our mission to care for the undocumented in our communities. He held a press conference at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and was also interviewed on National Public Radio and has authored several op-eds. [Click here](#) to read one from *The Spirit: The Local Paper for the Upper West Side*.

We have all likely seen the news coverage of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's sermon at the National Cathedral at the Inaugural Prayer Service. As bishop of Washington D.C., she directly asked our president to show mercy to immigrants and others, including LGBTQ people, especially transgender people. Bishop Matt noted in one of his newsletters that Bishop Budde is one of his mentors. He has learned from her and urges us to do the same.

In Peace,

Deacon Jean Marie



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

February 2	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	The Presentation
February 9	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 16	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Because we are hosting the Traveling Shelter at our Trinity campus this month, our services will be at our St. Paul's campus.

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. And you can also find them there and on our Facebook page after the service is over. The links are:

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlxWU8Z_ucCKEGA
Grace's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/graceossining/>

CALL FOR FOOD FOR TRAVELING SHELTER

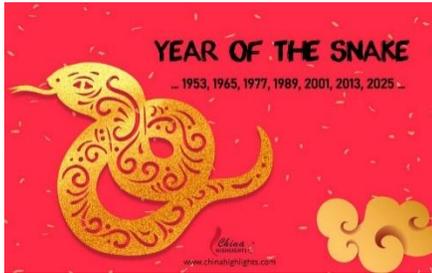


BOMA's Emergency Shelter Grace will host from Monday, February 3 through Monday, February 17, at our Trinity campus. Holy Spirit Church on Spring Street has graciously volunteered to provide the meals for the first week, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Hudson Valley will handle food for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the following week. So we will need to cover Monday, the 10th and Tuesday, the 11th. The Monroes have volunteered to handle Wednesday and Nicola Kenny and Ed Shultz will provide meals for Sunday, the 16th. Thank you!

[Click here](#) to find out what's involved. You might want to consider teaming up with another person/family. Let us know at churchoffice@graceossining.org if you can volunteer. Feel free to contact Tam Hernández tam.hernandez9@gmail.com if you have any questions.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Gung Hay Fat Choi/Gong Xi Fa Cai! - Year of the Snake



The Year of the Snake is all about shedding bad energy. This Lunar New Year, the Snake is expected to bring about transformation and new beginnings!

Grace welcomed January with open arms and hearts!

We sadly bid a fond farewell to Michael Pasieka, whose gracious presence and gifted voice will be missed.

The Trinity kitchen's deep-cleaning, degreasing and painting project will impress you. Thanks to Fiona Matthews, a donation from Loaves & Fish, and the Double-R Painting contractors for their generous contributions.

Grace Church will be hosting the Traveling Shelter for two weeks starting Monday, February 3rd. Grace is looking for assistance in providing meals (dinner, breakfast, and bag lunch) for Monday, the 17th and Tuesday, the 18th. More information on what is needed is on page 4.

The Grace Loaves & Fish team will be serving dinner on February 8th. We appreciate their service to our community and their support of Grace Church. Thanks to Alison Ford for coordinating the team through 2024. Reach out if you are called to serve.

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 9, at the St. Paul campus. We thank our vestry for their hard, discerning work and our hospitality committee for organizing the lunch buffet. We will be electing new vestry members and hope you will join us as we look toward the future. Your input is sincerely needed! Courageous conversations, important decisions, and meaningful work are on tap for 2025!

2025 has started off strong to keep Grace Episcopal clean, safe, and WELCOMING TO ALL! Thanks for your faith and support as we keep the momentum going this year!

Co-Wardens: Darryl Moy (2026) darryl.moy@gmail.com
 Cecilia Quintero (2025) cquintero1506@gmail.com

Vestry Members: Sarah Davis (2025) songbird0606@outlook.com
 Kellie Ishmael (2027) kellieishmael@gmail.com
 Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com
 Maribeth Osgood (2025) mosgood@optonline.net
 Jo Ann McGrath (2026) mcgrathinator@gmail.com
 Kate Pendzuk (2026) katependzuk@gmail.com

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OSSINING ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the annual election of the Wardens and Vestry of this Parish shall take place on **Sunday, February 9, 2025** after our 10:30 AM service in Grace's St. Paul's Parish Hall.

The persons whose terms are expiring or becoming vacant, are as follows:

As Warden: Darryl Moy, Cecilia Quintero

For the Vestry: Sarah Davis, Kellie Ishmael, Maribeth Osgood

The meeting shall elect two Wardens and three members of the Vestry. The terms of office will be as follows:

One Warden's term expires 2026 (one year)

One Warden's term expires in 2027 (two years)

One Vestry member's term expires in 2027 (two years)

Two Vestry members' terms expire in 2028 (three years)

Nominations from the floor are permissible at the meeting. Those eligible to vote must be eighteen years of age, baptized, and regular in attendance and support of Grace Episcopal Church Ossining over the past twelve months.



CALL TO COURAGE: INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR SANCTUARY

February 12 at 7:00 PM

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

Come join us at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for a powerful evening of unity and hope. This in-person event will bring together people of all faiths to stand in solidarity and support for those seeking sanctuary. Let's come together to show our courage and commitment to creating a more inclusive and compassionate community. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of something truly meaningful.

Be part of this meaningful event and stand with us in courage. [Click here](#) to register!



SPECIAL ELECTION

This past November, Westchester County Executive George Latimer was elected to represent the 16th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. As such, once he was sworn in at the beginning of this year, he resigned the position and Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins was unanimously voted in by the county legislature as Interim County Executive. This means that a special election will be held on February 11, 2025, for Westchester County Executive.

Voting will take place on **Tuesday, February 11th** from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM at your usual polling location, which can be found either by:

entering your home address in the search bar at

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/find-polling-place>

or

your name, county, zip code, and date of birth at

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>.

These sites will also provide information as to whether you are currently registered to vote.

Early voting will take place from February 1–9 at the times and locations listed at

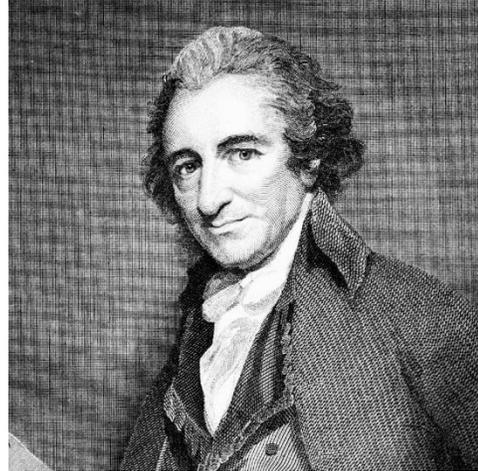
<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/voting/early-voting-2025>.

The candidates are Ken Jenkins (Democrat) and Christine Sculti (Republican). Ken Jenkins was a Westchester County Legislator prior to becoming Deputy County Executive in 2018. Christine Sculti served as Chief Advisor to Rob Asterino while he served as the 8th Westchester County Executive. The winner of the election will serve out the remainder of Latimer's term, which is up at the end of this year."

COMMON SENSE: THE STORY OF THOMAS PAINE

Calling all local history buffs! Don't miss this historical theater production at the Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theater on Saturday, February 8th, at 2:00 PM

Tutti Bravi Productions, Inc., in collaboration with the Ossining Public Library and the New Rochelle Council on the Arts presents an original chamber opera *Common Sense: The Story of Thomas Paine*, written and composed by John Taylor Thomas (Sarah Davis' husband), produced by Billie Tucker & John Taylor Thomas, and directed by Judy Tucker.



An entertaining musical history that centers on the influential life of the political activist, philosopher, writer and patriot Thomas Paine who lived out his later years on his farm in New Rochelle. In this spirited production, some of the historical figures who gave birth to our country are also brought to life.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ossining Library. Tickets and registration are not needed to attend.

LOAVES & FISH



On Saturday evening, February 8th, Grace Loaves and Fishes will serve dinner to about 40-60 guests. Our menu will be roast pork, mashed potatoes, and steamed vegetables. In addition, our local ShopRite contributes bread and assorted pastries to the meal.

In Southern Westchester, the Loaves and Fishes teams are ten groups of people who work to provide meals for our neighbors. Grace Loaves and Fishes prepares a Saturday night meal about every ten weeks. On Grace's Saturday we prep from 4:00-5:00 PM, serve meals from 5:00-6:00 and clean up from 6:00-7:00. We welcome volunteers to shop, cook, serve, and clean up. Help your neighbors, have some fun and lower your blood pressure! Contact alisonford@msn.com for more information,



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

This is an ongoing, confidential, safe and welcoming grief support group that meets twice a month.

This month we meet on Saturday

February 8th

February 22nd

at 10:00 AM at our St. Paul's campus.

There is no need to register, just come to the Family Room at 40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY at the St Paul's Campus of Grace Episcopal Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Online ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

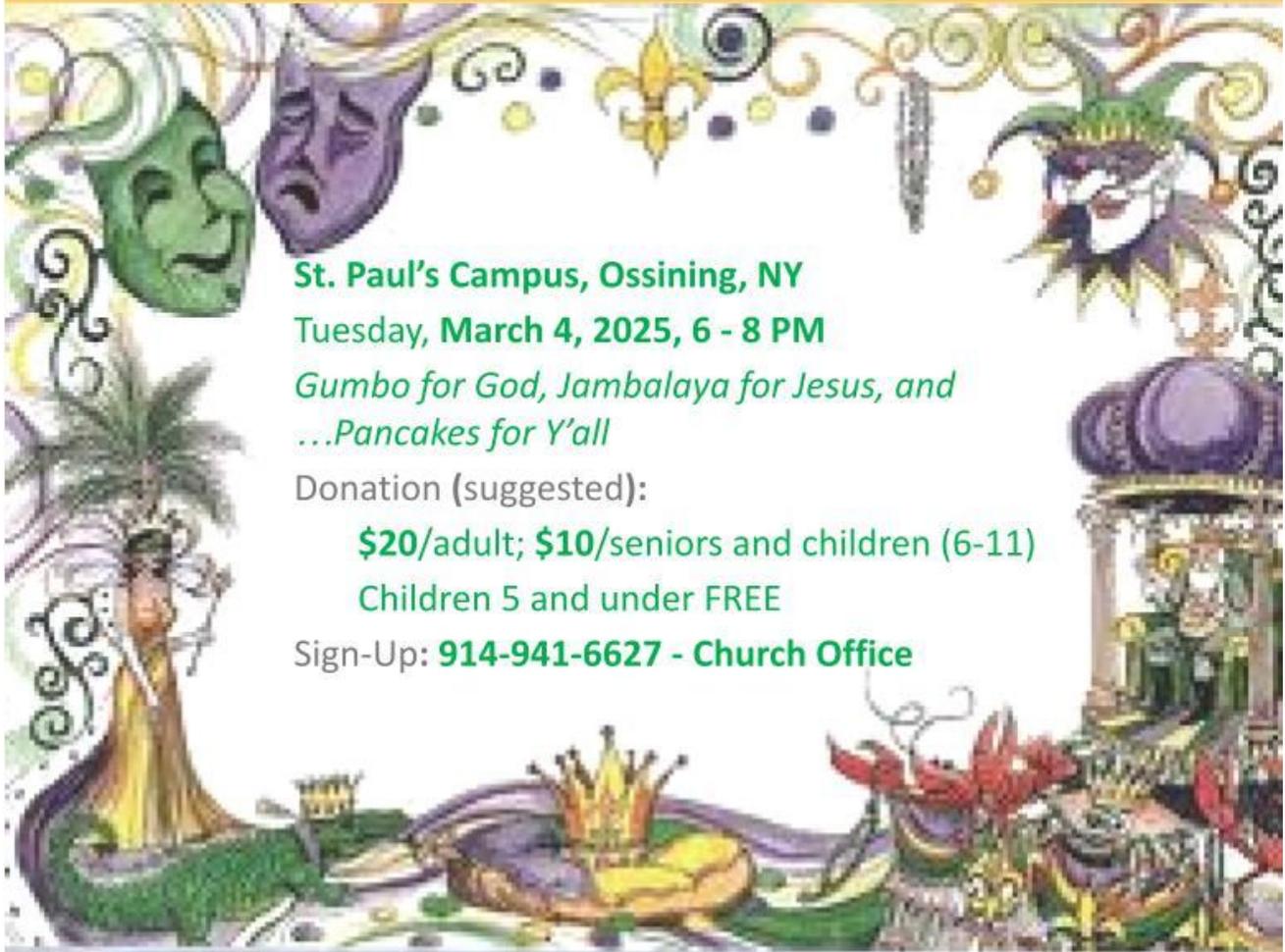
FEBRUARY 3, 6, 10, AND 13 FROM 7:00 TO 10:00 P.M.

Join us for a transformative four-session workshop hosted by the Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee. Together, we will explore how racism impacts all of us and learn how to identify and address systemic racism in our communities and lives.

To register, email Roberta Todd at roberta.todd@msn.com

Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!

**Grace Episcopal
Welcomes you to our
Shrove Tuesday...Mardi Gras Dinner**



St. Paul's Campus, Ossining, NY

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6 - 8 PM

*Gumbo for God, Jambalaya for Jesus, and
...Pancakes for Y'all*

Donation (suggested):

\$20/adult; \$10/seniors and children (6-11)

Children 5 and under FREE

Sign-Up: **914-941-6627 - Church Office**

Join us...and...

Let The Good Times Roll!



FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 1 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 8 Grief Group at Grace (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 8 Grace serves at Loaves and Fish (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 9 Grace Annual Meeting (noon, St. Paul's Campus)
- 22 Grief Group at Grace (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 23 The Book Club (*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*) (noon, St. Paul's Campus}
- 26 Vestry Meeting

2/3-2/17 Homeless Shelter (Trinity Campus)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Pauline	2	Adam Wagner	18
Dhalya Baker Wagner	5	Zach Sporn	20
The Rev. Cooper Conway	9	Stephanie Silicato	22
Robert Docker	9	Emerica Jusu-Davies	23
Susan Holsten Madera	9	Julie Gross	25
Christina Cowan Richmond	12	Brooke McGrath Antonopoulos	25
Kathen Cowan Reynolds	13	Ian Robertson	25
Nicholas Kip	14	Anna Bomwell	26
Linnet Baker	15	Jessica Bowen	29

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Janet Hughes and Diahann Malcolm 14



CLERGY

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

VESTRY

Darryl Moy, Warden Cecilia Quintero, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Sarah Davis Maribeth Osgood
Kellie Ishmael Kate Pendzuk
Milton Kerr

STAFF

Beth Pollack, Treasurer
Tina Farrell and Tamsen Hernández, Parish Administrators
Suji Jung, Music Director
Katherine Pendzuk, Verger
Megan Whalen, Bookkeeper
Anthony Sena, Sexton, St. Paul's Campus
Pablo Montoya, Sexton, Trinity Campus

MISSION STATEMENT

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