

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 6 Number 6

June 2026

Happy June, everyone!

So: we are finally rounding the bend into summer! And I don't know about you, but I welcome the summer slowdown, the summer sun and heat, and all the bright, green fun — especially after this last, long, cold, grey-weary winter. Before we begin summer as a Church in July, though, we still have some important things to do this month:



This Sunday we have a Family Sunday at our Trinity campus, as Megan and her teen son Ben support teens and children in Potter Hall as they explore the Christian faith. Thanks, Megan and Ben!

Sunday, June 14th at St. Paul's after coffee hour in the Parish Hall, we will review what we've learned from our New Future's programming. Our goal is to summarize what we have heard from our two community panels, research, and conversations so together we can answer the questions: 1) What is the sense of call we have heard? and 2) how should Grace respond? Come whether you have come to all the New Futures events or none; it will be enlightening...and fun!

Sunday the 21st is our Father's Day celebration.

Sunday the 28th is our annual Parish Picnic and celebration of St. Paul's Feast Day. Come and enjoy some hamburgers, hot dogs, and camaraderie before we slow down for July and August.

There is a special Juneteenth program on Sunday, June 14th called "The Telling" at Star of Bethlehem Church and promoted by BOMA. I will be at a diocesan training that week from Sunday afternoon after church to Friday afternoon in Queens, so I unfortunately won't be able to make it, but consider going. It sounds terrific. You can learn more about it on page 16. Tickets are required as food is provided.

Restful Ground by Stanley Burnshaw

I have known solitudes, but none has been
Such as I seek this hour: a place so still
That the darkened grasses wake to no sound at all
Nor float their shadowy fingers in the wind.

I have known quiet in places without dark trees;
But after this clanging of hours, I seek a silence
Where the only motion is the quiet breathing
Of dark boughs gazing on the restful ground.

Be sure to plan your summer slowdown this month, if you haven't already. The "culture wars" continue unfortunately unabated, and summer is the time to get some of your favorite respite — whatever that is. What is your restful ground? And how can you refresh yourself in it this summer?

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:20)

Amen!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

June 7	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist and Family Service (Trinity Campus)	Proper 5
June 14	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 6
June 21	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 7
June 28	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist and Family Service (St. Paul's Campus)	Feast of St. Paul

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. You can find our recorded services 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/>



DEACON'S MESSAGE

PRIDE AND PERSEVERANCE

A news story on National Public Radio reported that Pride parades, marches, and festivals across the United States have lost corporate support over the past two years. This is especially true in big cities like New York, Tampa, and Pittsburgh. Corporate support is down by tens of millions, according to the United States Association of Prides.

While it is disheartening, it isn't surprising. In corporate America, and in our federal government, DEI — diversity, equality, and inclusion — has become a polarizing and toxic concept. Supporting minority communities is discouraged, even forbidden, in some cases.

Just a few decades ago, corporations wanted nothing more than to court the LGBTQ+ consumer. There was a time when New York's Heritage of Pride March saw one elaborate float after another. Airlines, beer companies, and banks went all out to advertise. For some of us, it was a sign that we had arrived. We were finally a coveted consumer group. For others, it was a turn off. Flawless young dancers in matching tee shirts promoting consumer goods were far from the scrappy activists who led the Stonewall Uprising in June 1969.

At the same time as corporate sponsorship has dried up, another amazing trend is taking place. I call it Pride Everywhere in Every Town. Just years ago Pride in the tri-state area was only visible in New York City. Now we have festivals in such disparate places as White Plains, Hastings, Yonkers, and Pleasantville. As I write this, Ossining has already had its flag raising ceremony and Pleasantville Pride has already happened.

But there is still plenty of celebrating to do. On June 14, Briarcliff Manor will host its family-friendly event from 2:00 to 5:00 at Walter W. Law Memorial Park. The funding and initiative behind these events is coming from local nonprofits, including churches and places of worship. So much for corporate dollars.

A young man spoke last year at Greenwich Pride and summed up the new movement:

“Pride should be everywhere because we are everywhere, in suburbs and small villages.” The goal is for many events, even if they are small in size, to be visible to people like local parents whose kids are just coming out, or those newly-out students who need community.

With this in mind, I am kicking off Pride Month by making a list of all the cities and towns nearby that have celebrations. I hope I see you there.

— Deacon Jean Marie

MY CURRENT LIST IN PROGRESS

Hastings Pride	6/12/2026		6-9 PM
Yonkers Pride	6/13/2026		1-7 PM
Pelham Pride	6/13/2026		2-5 PM
Poughkeepsie Pride	6/13/2026		12-4 PM
Mount Kisco Pride Celebration	6/13/2026		11-2 PM
Rockland Pride	6/14/2026		11-5 PM
Briarcliff Manor Pride	6/14/2026		2-5 PM
Rockland BIPOC Pride	6/25/2026		6-9 PM
JBFC Pride in the Parking Lot	6/25/2026		5-7 PM
WCMC Pride	6/26/2026		12-3 PM
Caramoor	6/26/2026		7:30 PM
Peekskill Pride	6/27/2026		2-6 PM

JANINE CELEBRATES AS AN ORDAINED DEACON



And we threw her a party!



Join us for Summer Afternoon Tea on Thursday afternoon, June 18th, from 4:00-5:30 PM at our St. Paul's Campus. Jo McGrath & Amy Kitahata-Sporn thought it would be nice to gather informally to chat. No agenda, just company. Please let us know if you would be interested or just drop by. Tea will be provided. If anyone has any questions or would like more information, please email Tina at tina@graceossining.org

WARDEN'S REPORT



Warden's Meeting (May 30th) at St. Joseph of Arimathea Church, White Plains

"We need God's Grace. We need each other." – Bishop Matthew Heyd

May's Warden's message began: "We currently find ourselves in a complex time which is visited by a wide range of emotions, memories, and concerns." And it closed with "...hold the following words close. 'In your darkest moments, God is there.' The message encourages believers to trust in God's timing, power and the ultimate plan for good, even when the situation is not immediately understood."

And as luck would have it, last Saturday, Richard and I found ourselves in a room with other wardens from the Episcopal Diocese of New York who were experiencing similar challenges and concerns about the future of our churches in our communities in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Rockland counties. The Warden's Conference could not have come at a better time, nor been more focused and productive to help us all discern the impact of The Episcopal Church's status and the variable realities and trends which the Diocese is facing. Since Bishop Heyd was installed in February 2024, his plate has gotten increasingly full. He has continued to advocate for social justice, civil rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and to protect our Sanctuary Church policy, in addition to pursuing the church's longstanding obligations regarding Reparations and seeking accountability and justice for victims of Sexual Misconduct/Harassment. The Diocesan Organization chart, staff, and departments have been redesigned and continue to be a work-in-progress. There are new plans, blueprints, and programs to better meet the evolving needs of our Episcopal Church in 2026.

Bishop Heyd was very clear that the Diocesan vision is no longer what it was before his installation. He envisions a Diocese which operates as an active partnership, more open to an exchange of ideas, expertise, and experience from our churches at ground zero to our Cathedral in Manhattan. Wardens have been encouraged to connect with each other via email/and social media apps to build our own networks where we are encouraged to brainstorm, problem-solve, and envision what a thriving and more robust future for our churches might be.

Given the presented material and discussions led by Canon to the Ordinary Alissa Newton and Chief of Finance & Operations Judi Allen, we felt seen and heard. Our role as Warden was outlined, and we were reminded that New York State has laws which cover Episcopal Church governance, along with the upcoming launch of Safe Church and Mutual Ministry Reviews, which are expected in the near term. We are definitely not alone and have the support of our Diocese and our cohorts throughout our community. This message and invitation to become more engaged and involved in our work together is a certain sign of a new chapter and culture as we all navigate and discern the future of our Church together. As Canon Alissa said, **"The Church is not dying, the Church is changing!"**

Wardens: Cecilia Quintero (2027) cquintero1506@gmail.com
Richard Shaw (2028) rsshaw@gmail.com

Vestry Members: Ann Barringer Spaeth (2027) abspaeth55@gmail.com
Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com
Alison Ford (2028) alisonford@msn.com
Maribeth Osgood (2028) mbosgood@outlook.com
Graham Gulian (2029) ggulian@gmail.com
Jo Ann McGrath (2029) mcgrathinator@gmail.com



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

You may have thought that during Grace's discernment process, B&G wouldn't be busy, since we have a hold on most new projects. Here's an update as we end the program year, settle in for summer, and prepare for September.

The major focus continues to be the facility condition assessments being provided by Parish Property Management. Our Buildings and Grounds Committee is overseeing the process to make sure all property is accurately assessed and Grace's money is properly spent to aid in the discernment process. And a final report will hopefully be provided to the vestry in the coming months. Here are some pending projects and expenses under consideration, some with more urgency than others:

Trinity Campus

1. Kitchen Range: left oven not working, needs servicing and cleaning, contractor being secured, costs unknown
2. Kitchen Exhaust Fan: not working, needs servicing or replacement, contractor being secured, costs unknown
3. Kitchen Plumbing: hot and cold water pipes need to be secured, estimate \$1,360.00
4. Kitchen Department of Health Inspection: passed, one minor violation being rectified and costs covered by Loaves & Fish
5. Fire Alarm System: false alarms, system being evaluated, costs unknown
6. Trinity Operating Permit: did not pass and being inspected again in three weeks; Extension Ladder blocking an egress, ladder relocated
7. Stage Floor (Ossining Food Pantry storage) - South wall sagging, needs to be secured, Clemco, our floor contractor, assessing and providing an estimate
8. Basement Stairs: outside drainage and catch basin repair and installation, estimate \$3,610.00
9. Men's Bathroom: hot water tap dripping, water shut-off, need plumber estimate

St. Paul's Campus

1. Boiler, Parish Hall, and Open Door Wing: is old, oil and water intrusion. Estimate \$34,256.00 + cost to remove asbestos
2. Parish Hall Ceiling Exhaust Fan: not working. Evaluation and estimate being secured

Rectory

1. Install dedicated 20 amp circuit for window AC, estimate \$1,856.98
2. Install 50 amp Level 2 Car Charging Port, estimate \$1,447.59 if completed with item 1, otherwise would need to be re-quoted if done separately

Please inform a member of our Buildings and Grounds Committee if you see something which needs to be addressed, preferably in writing (email). And yes, we can always use extra help.

Thank you, on behalf of the B&G Committee,

Darryl Moy, Chair darryl.moy@gmail.com

Milton Kerr mkdj46@yahoo.com

Mark Monroe markmonroe55@msn.com

Kate Pendzuk katependzuk@gmail.com

Cecilia Quintero cquintero1506@gmail.com



Grace
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



BAKE CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS FOR COFFEE HOUR!

Grace Family Sunday

JESUS SAYS SHOW MERCY & FOLLOW ME

THIS SUNDAY!

JUNE 7TH, 10:30

TRINITY CAMPUS

ALL AGES WELCOME!!

Bake with Megan and Ben!



Questions?

Contact Rev. Hal or the office:

hal@graceossining.org

churchoffice@graceossining.org (914) 941-6627

GRACE FAMILY SUNDAYS

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND HOW!

Grace is thrilled to announce an effort to bring Family Sundays back! Read on for more information...

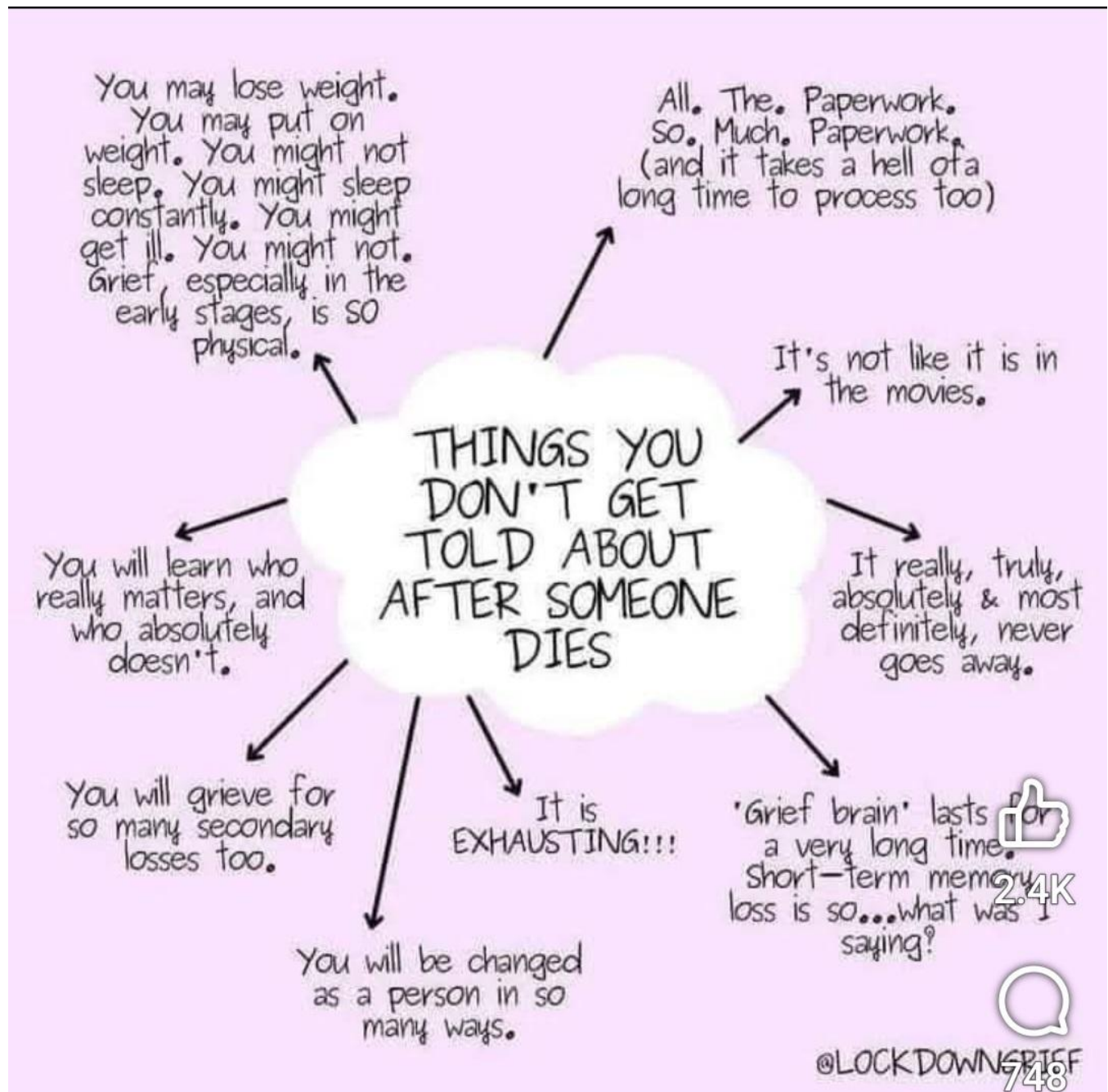
LOAVES AND FISH

On May 30th, the Grace team stepped up again! We served 38 in-house meals and 24 meals to go, for a total of 72 meals. Our menu (a nod to summer) was hot dogs and hamburgers (with a lettuce and tomato garnish), baked beans, and coleslaw. Breads and desserts were provided by Shoprite.



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

We meet on the second (6/13) and fourth (6/27) Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM in the Family Room of our St. Paul's campus, 40 Ganung Drive. Anyone who may be experiencing a loss, seeking a safe space to listen, learn and feel supported is invited to our gatherings. People of all faiths, the agnostic and unchurched are welcome.





TBC's next book will be the distinguished award-winning bestselling novel, *James*, by Percival Everett. It is a retelling of the classic Mark Twain novel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, narrated this time by James, the runaway slave. We haven't yet set a date for our discussion. Cecilia would like to know if you'd prefer a date in August, which has more available dates, or if we should schedule for after Labor Day, although the schedule does seem to fill up then!

And in case you're looking for a way to decide what else to read, here's the NYT's suggestion!

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S



Summer Reading Bucket List

- ☐ Read a book published in the last year
- ☐ Read a book in a genre you don't typically read
- ☐ Read one of The New York Times's Best Books of the 21st Century
- ☐ Read a really short, or a really long, book
- ☐ Read a classic you've been meaning to read (or revisit)
- ☐ Read a book that takes place during the summer
- ☐ Read a book in translation
- ☐ Read a book that's been adapted for the screen
- ☐ Listen to an audiobook
- ☐ Check out and read a book from your local library (bonus points if it's recommended by a librarian!)





THE BISHOP OF NEW YORK

We are a sanctuary diocese. Every day our congregations welcome everyone, including our neighbors who are immigrants.

We wanted to share important progress in our care for our neighbors— and ask for your prayers and action for critical work right now.

The last year has been painful.

So many of our neighbors have been targeted by immigration enforcement.

For many years churches and other faith institutions held “sensitive sites” status from the federal government, which meant our spaces and our programs were off-limits to immigration officials. That status was revoked by the current administration in January 2025.



Since then, we’ve fought to have that protected status restored. We are meant to offer communities of safe belonging. Through this time we’ve helped our congregations navigate what safety we could provide.

Organizing matters. Our witness made a difference.

Yesterday, we joined Governor Kathy Hochul as she signed legislation restoring sensitive sites status to houses of worship, schools, libraries, and hospitals.

This law means all our churches have protection from intrusion by immigration enforcement. *We are sanctuary once more.*

The legislation also prohibits cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration officers and bans law enforcement from wearing masks.

And, we still have much work to do.

Yesterday we also joined a prayer vigil at Delaney Hall, the detention center outside of Newark. We've visited the center several times because members of our diocesan community were detained there.

Over 300 people in immigration detention at Delaney Hall have organized a labor and hunger strike to protest basic conditions, including rotten food, lack of medical care, and unsanitary living facilities. They've [written letters](#) describing their situation. We've seen first-hand the conditions they're citing.



There's significant tension. Detainees have been beaten and tear-gassed this week. Faith leaders and community organizers standing vigil outside have been attacked, too.

We can help. We're inviting the entire Diocese to join those inside the facility in a *solidarity fast* by contributing what you would spend on food in one day to support the families of those who are detained. (For example, if you spend \$40/day on food - donate \$40).

You can donate [here](#).

Our goal is to provide 300 families with at least one day's food.

Donations will go to family members whose lives have been devastated by having a loved one (sometimes a breadwinner) detained. The families have asked for support for groceries, rent, and other basic needs.

You are also invited to join faith leaders in an ongoing witness at Delaney Hall. You can sign up for non-violence de-escalation training [here](#).

Organizing matters. Our witness makes a difference.

“Jesus said, be kind to strangers.”

Someone was holding up that sign yesterday at the vigil outside Delaney Hall.

I’m grateful our clergy and congregations live that practice every day, in every region of the Diocese, to offer safe belonging for our neighbors.

I’m also grateful to Governor Hochul for her commitment to the new protections.



Thanks to Vice-Chancellor Mary Rothwell Davis for her leadership, to Public Witness Task Force chair Anne Marie Witchger and special projects coordinator Ashley Gonzalez for organizing, to the Rev. Hank Tuell and the Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer for leadership in the witness for Delaney Hall.

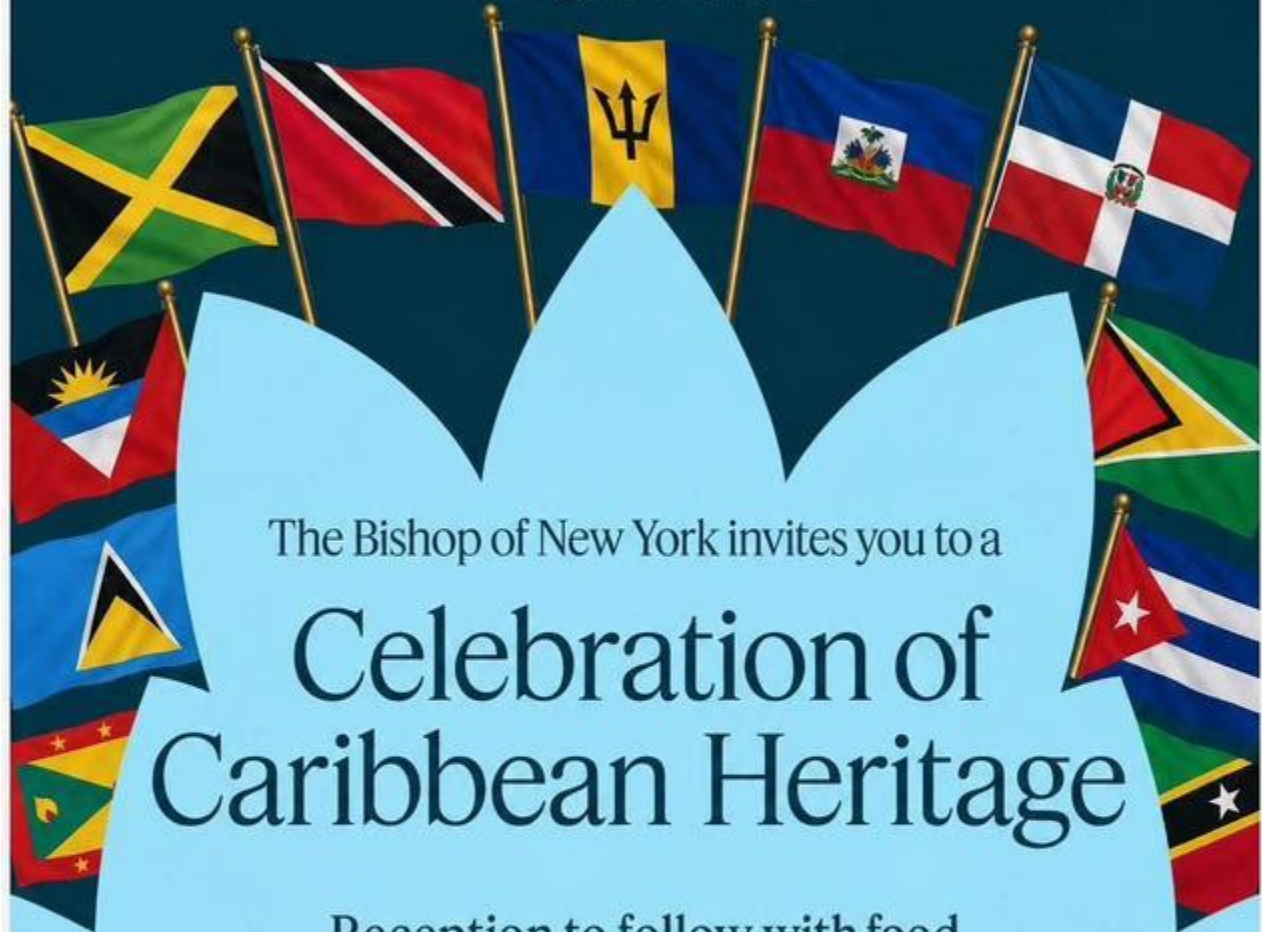
Pray for neighbors detained, afraid, or separated from their families. Pray for our continued care and witness. We are sanctuary.

Grace & Peace,

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

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd
Bishop of New York

Diocesan Evensong
Sunday, June 14, 4pm



The Bishop of New York invites you to a
**Celebration of
Caribbean Heritage**

Reception to follow with food
and music from the Caribbean

Officiant
The Rev. Dr.
Pierre-André Duvert



Preacher
The Rev. Canon
Charles W. Simmons

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue @ 112th Street
New York, NY 10025



JUNE EVENTS

- 6 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus Upper Room)
- 7 Family Service (10:30 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 13 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 14 New Futures Community Information Debrief (Noon, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 27 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 28 Family Sunday and Parish Picnic (10:30 AM, St. Paul's Campus)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Isabella Catherine Gentile	1	Leah Barceló	12
Joseph Orfino	1	Lori Liberti	13
Arthur Hightower	2	Jan Barrows	14
Sarah Davis	6	Kim Lee Howard	15
Beth Pollack	6	Cha Moy	23
Julianna Piscitelli (Carolyn Black's granddaughter)	6	Catherine Rosenbloom	23
		Alex Pasioka	26
Dina Flihan	8	Nunzio Liberti	27

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Peter and Dina Flihan	2
Darryl and Cha Moy	7
David and Karen Kamp	16
Glenn and Joanne Prince	17
Arlene and Ron Lazaro	23



CLERGY

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

Janine Thwaite, Deacon Ordinand

VESTRY

Cecilia Quintero, Warden

Richard Shaw, Warden

Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer Spaeth

Alison Ford

Graham Gulian

Milton Kerr

Maribeth Osgood

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

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.