



## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

As of February 28<sup>th</sup> we are able to gather for in-person Holy Eucharist, with precautions, and it is wonderful to do so! We are also continuing to have some services on Zoom.

I've heard the question, "When can we stop doing this online stuff?". A better question might be, "Why has it taken us so long to make services available online?"

On this year's Parochial Report (the annual report to both our Diocese and the Episcopal Church) there were additional questions relating to the pandemic, some requiring a narrative response. In discussing our parish's responses, here are a few of our vestry's observations:

- Providing access to virtual services for those who cannot attend not only benefits those who are elderly and infirm, but also those with young children, those who are travelling, and those who, for reasons of weather or immediate health, don't want to assemble in person.
- Now that most of us know how to use technologies like Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, Skype, etc, they are valuable additions to our toolkit – other ways of reaching members and our community that are not geographically bound.
- Services on Facebook or YouTube are also available for viewing at any time after the event itself, for those who are otherwise occupied on Sunday morning.
- Concern about drawing people back to church is real, as are continuing concerns about Covid-19, especially in light of new, more infective virus variants, so we must plan for later while remaining careful and safe in the present.

To this last point, it should be noted that increased vaccinations will help speed our return to gathering in person, but it is likely many adults won't receive full vaccination until the summer. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone,

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including those who have been vaccinated, continue to follow the recommended guidelines for preventing the spread of the virus, including wearing a mask, physical distancing, avoiding indoor gatherings with persons outside your household, and frequent hand washing/sanitizing. The numbers are encouragingly low in our area at this time, and we hope and pray that they will remain so.

Many members of our parish now have the opportunity to get vaccinated — and, in the weeks ahead, more and more parishioners will be eligible to schedule their vaccinations.

Here are the specific steps that each of you can take in that regard:

Get vaccinated as soon as possible! Epidemiologists agree: the best vaccine is the one that gets into your arm!

As of this writing, if you are age 65 or over, or younger with certain health conditions or work in certain occupations, you can now begin the process of scheduling an appointment to get vaccinated by going to the following sites:

NYS-run sites (often adds appointments on Sunday at 10 am) – <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov> or by phone - 1.833.NYS.4VAX (1.833.697.4829)

Onondaga County (often adds appointments on Tuesday at 10 am) – <https://covid19.ongov.net/vaccine/1st-dose-screening-form> or by phone – 211

Appointments fill very quickly, so check back often and be flexible! If you are over 65, some pharmacies, including Kinney, have alert systems which send you text notifications when appointments are available.

Please, please ask for help if you need help navigating a website to get signed up for a vaccination, or transportation for an appointment or any other related help, or if you are aware of someone else who needs help. We have members and friends who can assist in navigating websites. Please call me or the parish office for assistance.

Note that there is no financial cost to the individual getting vaccinated, so ability to

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pay or insurance status is not a barrier.

If you are not planning to get vaccinated for any reason, I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about any concerns that you might have and possibly direct you to helpful resources that might allay any concerns.



## FEBRUARY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- appointed David Ferrari as treasurer.
- reviewed the job description for the treasurer position.
- discussed the ZOOM Vestry Day presentation and Q&A session and worked on our Vestry guideposts.
- noted that a needed repair has been completed on the elevator.
- assisted in completing the annual Parochial Report.

## LITURGY ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Are you interested in helping with services in church? One household (i.e., those who live in the same home) is needed to read lessons, psalm and prayers of the people, and to make the responses at each service. Please contact Mother Cathy if you are interested in helping out.

## EASTER BASKET FOR HEAD START

Looking for something to lift your spirits on these cold winter days? Help Outreach brighten the lives of children by donating items for their Easter baskets.

Next time you are shopping, pick up a few extra items---

- small toys
- Games
- books
- writing tools

- paper pads
- activity kits/stickers
- small bouncy balls
- sidewalk chalk/jump ropes
- soap bubbles
- Watercolors
- bath toys
- **(anything small and fun for young children!)**



Edible treats are also fine

- small cookies/crackers/fruit gummies
- Easter candy

**(Please make sure these are individually wrapped or in individual packets)**

Please deliver your donations to church during business hours by **March 22** since Head Start starts their spring break on March 26. Our goal is to have these baskets for 12 preschoolers, and we are counting on your generosity. Thank you!!

## WINTER FOOD DRIVE

The Outreach Committee is once again doing a winter food drive to be delivered to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. It seems that donations drop off right after Christmas and the pantry has asked us to fill the gap. All non-perishable food items are welcome. However, the Baldwinsville Food Pantry has expressed a special need for the following items:

- Jellies and jam (not homemade)
- peanut butter
- hamburger/tuna noodle helper
- pasta/ mac & cheese
- hearty soups
- canned veggies/stew/tuna
- box of instant hot chocolate
- Cereal



- paper products

Outreach member Sue Purdy gets ready to load up our collection for delivery to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. Thank you Grace parishioners for the wonderful response to our Winter Food Drive. Everything was delivered to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry today.



This is an ongoing collection and items can be brought to the office during regular office hours, so feel free to continue to bring in donations. We will continue to deliver food items throughout the year.

## POEM- COME DOWNSTAIRS

Joy Pople

Smells waft up from the basement as mourners gather in the sanctuary to bid farewell. Hymns, readings, stories, photos, prayers.

Don't just go to your separate ways.

Come downstairs.

We made egg sandwiches, cut off the crusts.

Lined up crackers alongside cheese, mounded up fruit.

The way we always do.

You lost your loved one, your neighbor, your mentor, your friend's child.

But don't just walk out the door.

Walk toward each other.

Give a hug to the grieving.

Look over the photos.



See the departed in many roles.  
The dimensions of life  
Cut short or stretched long.

Savor the memories.  
Sample new views.  
Then follow the aroma.  
Take a plate. Put a sandwich on it.  
Pick up tomatoes and olives.  
Add cheese and chips.



Each person's palate is different.  
Choose life. Choose color.  
Choose tart and sweet, salt and sour.  
It's better that way.

Your plate is unique.  
The fixings are in front of you.  
Choose, mix, savor, sample.

Fill the hole in your heart.  
Put something in your mouth.  
Chew, swallow, savor.

Be filled.  
Choose life.  
Celebrate.

## WINTER COAT DONATION

Winter is more than half over! Have you noticed there are some winter coats and jackets in your closets that are seldom used?

Please consider donating these to Grace Church, to be taken to The Caring Place at St

Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse. The Caring Place, which helps people with housing insecurity in the downtown Syracuse area, is accepting donations of winter coats and jackets to build up their supply for next fall and winter.



Please leave your donations in the welcome area or call the church office for assistance. We will be continuing our collection through the spring months. Thank You!

### A BIG THANK YOU!



**Thank you** to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please

consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.

**GIVE**

### SAMARITAN MEAL

Due to the continuing pandemic, Outreach feels that volunteering as a church is still impossible. We are funding the \$400 cost of the three Samaritan Meals in 2021. We have already made our goal for the April 25 meal, and as of Tuesday we have received \$145.00 toward our final meal of the year in October. Thank you, again!

**GIVE**

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
315 635 3214  
office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org  
Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

**WORSHIP**

Sunday Rite 1 8:00 A.M.  
Sunday Rite 2 11:00 A.M.  
Tuesdays 12:00 NOON  
Wednesdays in Lent 6:00 P.M.



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street**  
**Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006**